

■ METRO / A22

MMDA identifies top 10 'killer zones' in metropolis

■ BUSINESS / B1

Peso still gaining: 51.22 to \$; Feb. 'hot money' also hit 11-month high

■ NEWS / A2

Erap foundation faces probe for P8-M donation

■ NEWS / A2

Ombudsman defies SC, doesn't act on multibillion Comelec graft case

For the poor, daily life is a 'state of emergency'



PAANO NAMAN ANG EMERGENCY NAMIN?
PART-TIME SECURITY guard Roy Aguabiva salvaged bricks and rotting plywood from a demolished shanty beside a railroad track in Manila, while his wife listened to radio news about President Macapagal-Arroyo's

FOR THE POOR / A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph



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★★

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P18

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SENIOR / A6

GMA advised to lift 1017

3 top security officials one in saying that threat has passed

By Christine O. Avendaño

UNLESS TROUBLE erupts in the next 24 hours, the three officials who make up the security cluster in the Cabinet are prepared to recommend the lifting of emergency rule to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao yesterday said at a news conference in Malacañang that the threats to national security had "subsided," "receded" and "leveled off" since the President declared a state of national emergency on Feb. 24 purportedly to head off a coup. (Story below)

The three men, who Ms Arroyo directed on Wednesday to assess the situation and make a recommendation within 24 to 72 hours, said they relayed this to her in a meeting prior to the news conference.

GMA ADVISED / A8



THE PRESIDENT'S MEN, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz (left), Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao, with Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, say they are recommending to Ms Arroyo the lifting of Proclamation No. 1017.

LYN RILLON

PNP chief: 6 Magdalo officers ready to tell all

By Luige A. del Puerto and Philip C. Tubeza

THREE JUNIOR OFFICERS OF an elite combat unit of the Philippine National Police implicated in the alleged fresh attempt to unseat Ms Arroyo have denied a hand in

the plot, but six former Magdalo officers, who allegedly participated in planning a coup, are willing to tell all, the police said.

"So right now, we continue to gather evidence that would prove or disprove their denial," Director Marcelo Ele, chief of the Direc-

torate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM), said, referring to Senior Supt. Benjamin Magalong, Chief Inspector Eric Dilag and Inspector Ryan Paloma.

The three officers of the Special Action Force (SAF) are under "restrictive custody" in Camp

Crame, the PNP headquarters, following reports that they had tried to recruit colleagues to join protesters last week during a "March for Peace," when they would declare their withdrawal of support from the government, according to PNP Director Gen-

eral Arturo Lomibao.

Their commander, Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco, was earlier sacked for his "failure to command his men." He is now under house arrest.

Also sacked for reportedly

PNP / A9



TRANSPARENT: Yes, the checks were given to the soldiers but formally donated and backed by solicitation letters and receipts, Estrada son-in-law Beaver Lopez explains during a visit to the office of DILG Secretary Ronaldo Puno. Lopez heads Estrada's Saludo sa Kawal Foundation. (See story on Page A2.)

JOAN BONDOC

Joker: Palace primary target is the media

By Philip C. Tubeza

SEN. JOKER ARROYO YESTERDAY said police officials, in clear violation of the constitutional guarantee of a free press, attempted to stop ABS-CBN's live television coverage of Sunday's Marine protest but were rebuffed.

Arroyo said a member of the Lopez family, which owns the giant network, told him about the police move. "He said ABS-CBN was asked to stop airing the incident."

A group of Marines protested the relief of Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, the Marine commandant, in Fort Bonifacio but returned to barracks after a tense six-hour standoff when its calls for peo-

ple power went largely ignored.

Arroyo did not name the Lopez family member but said the police move on Sunday against ABS-CBN was a "clear violation of the freedom of the press."

The administration senator said that the target of President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of national emergency on Friday was not Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran or Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo who, he said, were "being humiliated" in Congress. The two are among six congressmen targeted for arrest on rebellion charges.

"The focus is still on the press. That is what they're still after and they're

JOKER / A8

Catholics asked to say prayer in time of war

By Christian V. Esguerra

IN A SIGN THAT THE POLITICAL crisis is worsening, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines is asking the faithful to say a special prayer that is said during wars and disasters.

"Oratio imperata [literally 'obligatory prayer'] in time of civil disturbance" seeks divine intervention for a peaceful resolution of the political standoff, Fr. Anscar Chupungco, executive secretary of the CBCP Commission on Liturgy, said yesterday.

Also yesterday, the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, a key administration ally, appeared to distance itself from Ms Arroyo.

"The President's declaration of a state of national emergency is worrisome as this could mean the suppression of civil liberties and of human rights. We hope that it

CATHOLICS / A8

Querubin back with aching heart

By Nikko Dizon

IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT will make a battle-scarred, be-medaled soldier weep, it is a wounded heart.

And this was how Marine Col. Ariel Querubin's wife explained his emotional farewell to his troops on Wednesday, when he relinquished his post as commandant of the 1st Marine Brigade in Campo Ranao, Marawi City.

"He survived in 1989 and, now, he isn't even wounded—only his heart [is]," Flor Querubin told reporters yesterday while she waited for her husband to arrive at the Manila Domestic Airport in Pasay City.

The colonel arrived at 1:10 p.m. on board Cebu Pacific flight 5J 5384 from Cagayan de Oro.

While speaking with reporters, Flor Querubin received a call apparently from her husband.

"Hi, babe... Yes, yes... I love

QUERUBIN / A6

Atienza wing ousts Drilon as LP president

By Tina G. Santos and TJ Burgonio

RALLYING BEHIND BELEAGUERED President Macapagal-Arroyo, a faction of the splintered Liberal Party yesterday ousted Franklin Drilon as party president

at a meeting that was denounced by the Senate President's faction as a rump session engineered by Malacañang.

Ms Arroyo herself showed up at the Manila Hotel meeting and congratulated Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Presidential Chief of

Staff Michael Defensor shortly after they were unanimously voted party president and chair, respectively, by some 200 party members.

But party members identified with Drilon held a four-hour emergency caucus last night at

the Club Filipino in San Juan.

They said the convention and election called by the Atienza faction was part of Malacañang's "divide and rule" tactic against the political opposition and a plot to establish a one-party state.

ATIENZA / A6

GI sees Giuliani version in S. Leyte gov

By Christian V. Esguerra

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN Leyte—To a US Marine, the tragedy that hit this small town may have produced for St. Bernard its own version of New York's Rudy Giuliani.

Amid the many faceless heroes who emerged after mud and boulders buried Barangay Guinsaugon on Feb. 17, Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias has quietly stood out.

One American soldier saw in Lerias a shadow of Giuliani, the former mayor of New York who tried to keep his city together after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

"I think she's a Filipino version of Mayor Giuliani," US Marine Capt. Burrell Parmer told the Inquirer on Feb. 23. "She's a very compassionate lady and she's inspiring her people never to lose hope."

The presence of Lerias is both calming and reassuring in evacuation centers, in landslide areas, or in the narrow streets of St. Bernard where residents struggle to go on with their lives.

Inside a tent overlooking the site of the landslide, Lerias took calls from provincial workers and volunteers, fellow government leaders pledging assistance, and

GI SEES / A7

THE DYNAMIC, indefatigable Governor Lerias among the ruins inspired her people never to lose hope. And her words were spoken like an expert with a heart. She toured Ms Arroyo (right) thru the wasteland.



EDWIN BACASAS

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Japanese firms dun Piatco for billions for Naia 3 work

'Why are you crying, Mama?'

By DJ Yap

SIX-YEAR-OLD EDUARDO HERMOSO Jr. is even younger than the eight years his father has spent in jail, so he is used to not seeing him for months at a time.

When his father, one of the "Mamburao Six," was sent to Death Row the other day, he wondered what the uproar was all about.

"Why are you crying?" he asked his mother Tessie Hermoso, 48, as she struggled to find the words to tell the boy.

Eduardo Jr. does not yet understand that his father will now be spending the rest of his life waiting for execution, even as appeals on the case make their way through the court system.

After an eight-year legal battle, Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Ma. Theresa Yadao on Wednesday sentenced to death former congressman Jose Villarosa and the Mamburao Six for conspiring to murder Michael and Paul Quintos, the sons of Villarosa's political rival Ricardo Quintos, in Occidental Mindoro in 1997.

The elder Hermoso is one of the Mamburao Six, the label that the media have attached to the six farmers, alleged members of the communist New People's Army, who were arrested for the murders.

Relatives of the six—Hermoso, Josue Ungsod, Manolito Matricio, Mario Tobias, Ruben Balaguer and Gelito Bautista—denied what they said was a grave injustice.

The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines also condemned the conviction, saying it was a "travesty of justice and [showed the] failure of the justice system."

By Tarra V. Quismundo

TWO JAPANESE FIRMS ARE dunning the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) billions of pesos which they say represent long overdue payment due them as ordered by a London Court.

Seeking relief from a local court, Takenaka Corp. and Asahikosan Corp. yesterday sought about P4.4 billion from Piatco, the builder of the controversial Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

In a complaint filed before the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC), the two firms said they filed the civil suit "to enforce foreign judgments or final orders that, in the case of Asahikosan, arose from isolated transactions consummated abroad."

The firms claimed that Piatco, a consortium that includes German airport operator Fraport AG, "engaged the services of the plaintiffs (Takenaka and Asahikosan) as the main contractors to build" the Naia Terminal 3.

A Pasay court had ruled that the government could take over the terminal upon a P3-billion payment to Piatco.

The Japanese companies paid a filing fee for the civil action amounting to P77.8 million. The firms issued several checks to complete the amount, according to court staff.

They asked the court to order Piatco to pay claims they had won through separate rulings of the High Court of Justice, Queen's

Bench Division, Technology and Construction court in London, England.

They said that Piatco "failed and/or refused to pay" \$81.28 million (roughly P4.18 million), an interest of P116.825 million, and \$65,000 (around P5.9 million), as the London Court had ordered in its First Judgment, dated Feb. 18, 2005, and a Second Judgment, dated Dec. 2, 2005.

The London Court orders had long become "final and executory," the firms said, as Piatco did not challenge both unfavorable judgments.

The firms disclosed that in an effort to seek payment, they had sent a letter to Piatco last Feb. 20 enumerating their unsettled dues. They said the appeal had been unheeded until today.

In addition, Takenaka and Asahikosan asked the court to have Piatco pay for attorney's fees and litigation costs, totaling some P82 million.

"Due to Piatco's unjust refusal to settle [our] just and demandable claims, [we] were constrained to engage services... of counsel for an agreed fee, plus a reasonable premium in case of a favorable outcome. In addition, [we] will incur litigation costs of no less than P80 million. Thus, Piatco should be assessed the above amounts as attorney's fees and expenses of litigation," said the complaint.

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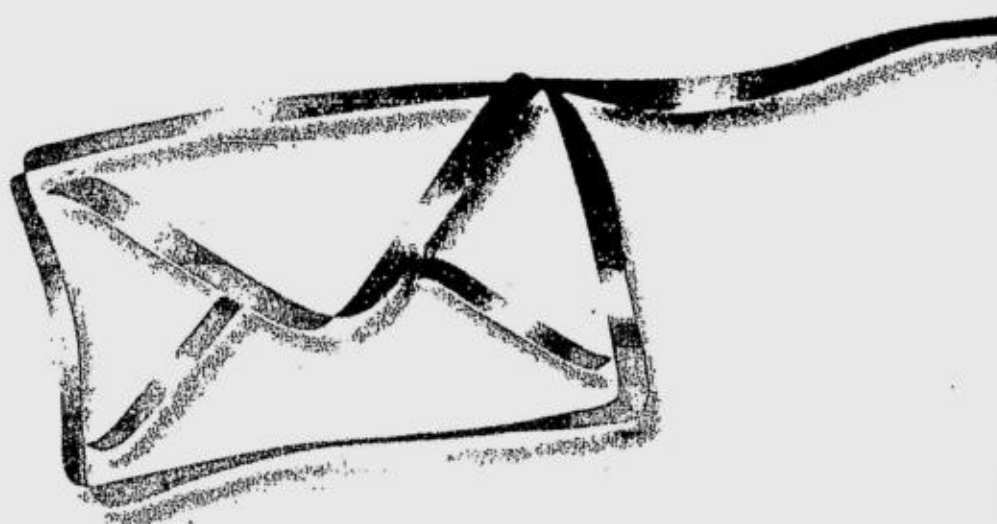
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Oil firms cut LPG prices

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER IMPLEMENTING successive price hikes, oil firms yesterday slashed prices of their liquefied petroleum gas by between P1 and P1.50 per kilogram.

Petron Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc. and Total (Philippines) Corp. reduced their prices by P1 a kilogram at 12:01 a.m. starting today.

Refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. cut prices by P1.50 a kilogram.

The oil firms all cited the huge drop in the international contract price of LPG as the reason for the price adjustment.

With this price adjustment, 11-kilogram LPG cylinders now sell for between P487.68 and P539.68.

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'CONSTITUTIONAL BODY'

Ombudsman exempt from contempt-Gutierrez

By Armand N. Nocom

FACING POSSIBLE CONTEMPT charges, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez yesterday defended the prerogatives of her office, resisting efforts by the Supreme Court to make her explain why she has failed to determine the criminal liability of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and other officials in the allegedly irregular award of the P1.3 billion poll computerization contract to the MegaPacific consortium.

In her comment, Gutierrez said the Ombudsman's Office cannot be held in contempt because it is a constitutional body.

Moreover, the high court's order for it to determine the criminal liability of the respondents in the contract that the SC had earlier voided was not a "mandatory directive" but a "referral," said Gutierrez in the comment that Emora C. Pagunuran, the acting director of the

Ombudsman's Office of Legal Affairs, filed for her.

She said "the Ombudsman has no duty to render reports on the status, eventual outcome and completion of its investigation on the Comelec-Mega Pacific consortium controversy."

"As a tacit judicial recognition of the Ombudsman's independence, the decision dated Jan. 13, 2004 in fact contained no directive for the Ombudsman to render such reports," Gutierrez said.

Null and void

In 2004, the high court ruled that the bidding irregularities in the automation project had rendered null and void the P1.7-billion contract awarded to the MegaPacific consortium to supply the Comelec with 1,991 automated counting machines.

It also ordered the Ombudsman to determine the criminal liability of those involved in the alleged irregularities.

Following a motion from the complainant Information Technology Foundation of the Phil. (ITFP) to issue an order directing the Ombudsman to give up update on its investigation of the issue, the SC last January asked the Ombudsman to "show cause why it should not be held in contempt of court" for its failure to comply fully with the court's directive in the Jan. 13, 2004 decision on the case.

The petitioner, ITFP, also informed the court that a complaint had been filed by the Ombudsman's Field Investigation Office sometime in October 2004, but that the Office of the Ombudsman had yet to act on it.

In her comment, Gutierrez said the SC order could be considered as a referral not a mandatory directive or "specifically one for the Ombudsman to determine the criminal liability of the persons involved in the nul-

lified transactions, nothing more, nothing less."

"Its meaning must not be unnecessarily expanded way beyond its literal and contextual significance.... To hold the Ombudsman in contempt of court for its purported failure to act upon the said referral, or to comply with the said directive, there must be a clear showing of deliberate and willful disregard or disobedience by the Ombudsman," she said.

In any case, Gutierrez said her predecessor Simeon V. Marcelo did take action on the complaint. Marcelo issued an order on Jan. 14, 2004 directing the then fact-finding and intelligence research bureau (FIRO), now known as the Field Investigation Office (FIO), to conduct an investigation into Comelec's allegedly irregular award of the contract to MegaPacific.

Palace defends GMA legitimacy before military

MALACANANG HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO defend the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's rule before the military in the wake of the restiveness shown by some Marines on Sunday.

Ms Arroyo's election was the main topic at a forum held Wednesday at Camp Aguinaldo where about 300 junior officers and enlisted personnel were reminded of their oath of loyalty to the chain of command.

Cabinet secretary Ricardo Saludo defended Ms Arroyo's victory in the May 2004 election, painstakingly explaining official results, survey results, exit polls and elections analyses.

Several soldiers left the room for a "cigarette break" during Saludo's presentation but were ordered to return by their officers.

Reporters later got hold of copies of Saludo's presentation titled "Moving Forward: Reflections on National Issues" that posed, among others, the question: "Who won the elections?"

Dona Z. Pazzibugan

Paterno claim not true, says ConCom colleague

FORMER TRADE SECRETARY VICENTE Paterno drew a rebuke from a colleague in the Consultative Commission on constitutional amendments as lawyer Raul Lambino clarified that the ConCom-proposed transitory provisions did not expand but actually diminished the powers of President Arroyo.

Lambino said yesterday Paterno had fabricated facts in claiming that the ConCom had sought to clothe President Arroyo with Marcos-type powers when the truth is the Chief Executive would actually be turning over certain powers to the interim prime minister who will in fact be elected by the Parliament.

Lambino, now a member of the Charter Change Advocacy Commission (CCAC), said Paterno had "misinformed and disinformationed the people" when he spoke about his objections to the ConCom draft and the transitory provisions being discussed in the House of Representatives concerning constitutional reforms.

Lambino aired his views in yesterday's launching of Issues, Opinion, Unity (IOU), a

weekly breakfast news forum at Mario's Restaurant in Quezon City.

"I cannot fathom how Paterno could peddle such lies," said Lambino, a professor of constitutional law at the University of the East. "Contrary to his false claims, the tran-



PATERNO

sitory provisions would not expand the powers of the President, but would actually diminish it because she would have to give way to the interim prime minister under the transitory government."

Lambino added: "His claim that the recommendation of the ConCom would lead to a Marcos-type parliament where President Arroyo will both be President and Prime Minister is not true."

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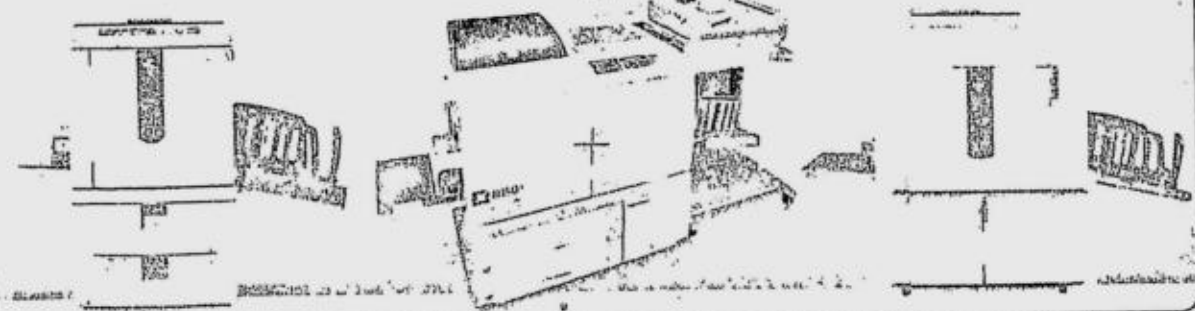
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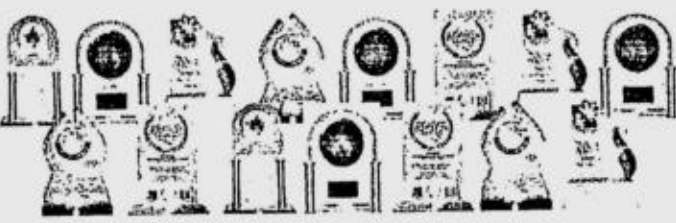
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GMA warns smugglers: Don't drop Mike A's name

PEOPLE INVOLVING FIRST GENTLEMAN Jose Miguel Arroyo's name to expedite transactions at the Bureau of Customs can expect only to land in hot water.

This was the stern warning of President Macapagal-Arroyo as she pushed for continued improvement in collections of the Bureau of Customs, which were up in the first two months of the year.

"If there is anyone there who will use my husband's name, the more you should catch him," the President told Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales during a televised roundtable conference with them. She said the practice of dropping Mike Arroyo's name had been going on "since the time of Finance Secretary Jose Camacho."

Ms Arroyo's husband has been linked by critics to the smuggling of vehicles, grains and other agriculture commodities persistently since the President took power in 2001 and this in turn has been cited as a major cause of the low customs collections.

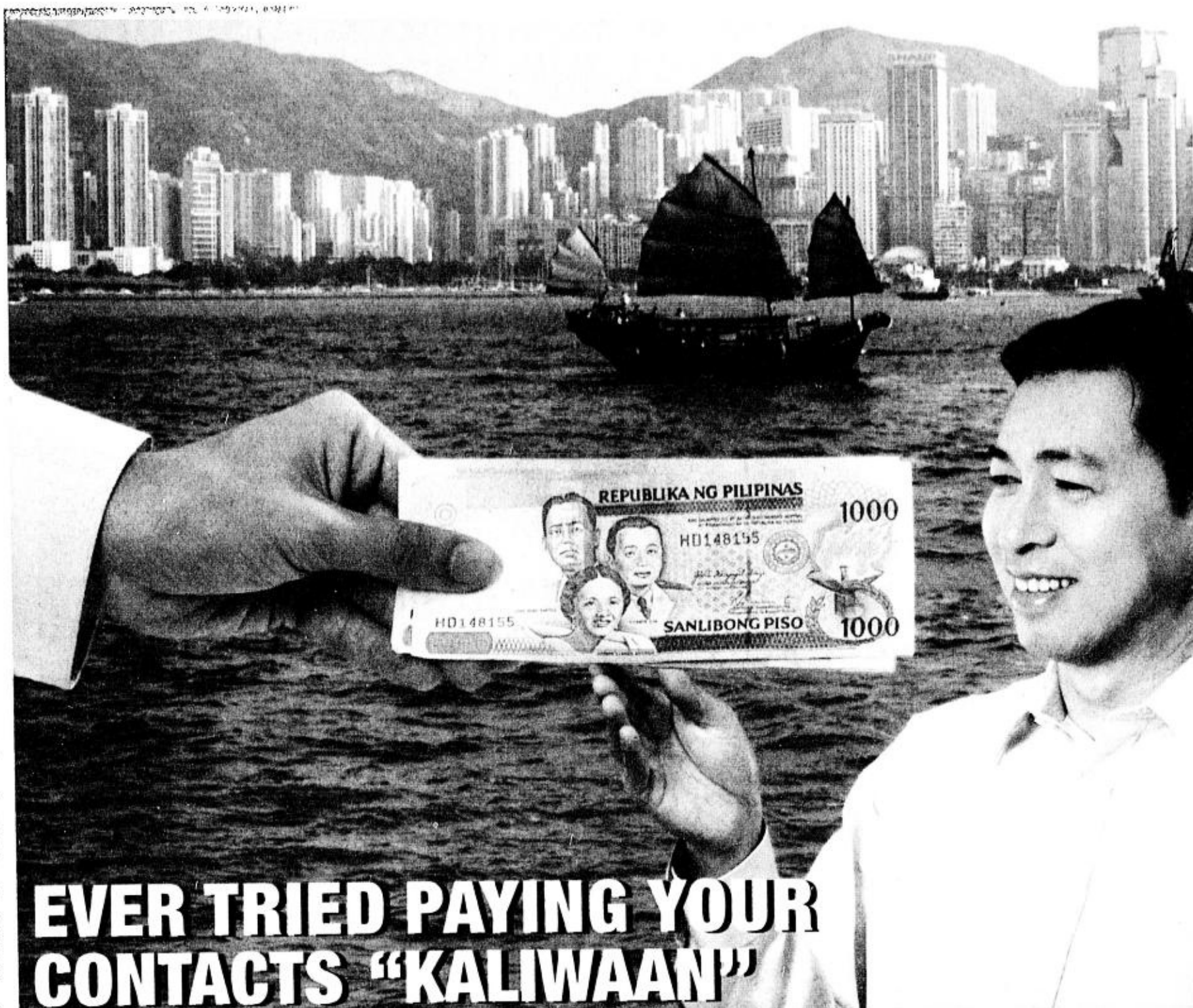
Ms Arroyo noted that the First Gentleman had already written a letter urging customs collectors not to entertain individuals using his name to speed up the release of their goods. Apparently, this has not been heeded, thus the President said she was reiterating her earlier instructions about cracking down on name-droppers to sustain the momentum of strong customs collections during the first two months of the year.

Morales reported that Customs generated P12.488 billion in revenues in February, P206 million better than the target of P12.282 billion and P3.272 billion or 35 percent higher than the P9.216 billion collected during the same month last year. (See related story on Page B5)

The bureau also surpassed its January target by P313 million, collecting P12.396 billion compared to the target of P12.083 billion.

The ports of Batangas and Manila were tagged as the best performers as they surpassed their combined targets by P2.1 billion for the first two months of the year.

"When I appointed Morales, a lot of people questioned my choice and asked, 'Who is his political godfather?' I told them he has no political backer. I chose him because I remember from our past command conference, when our collections were falling, that he had a sterling record as Customs chief of the Batangas port," the President said. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*



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THE DAILY GOSPEL



Friday, March 3, 2006

Friday, After Ash Wednesday

1st Reading: Is 58:1-9
Gospel: Matthew 9:14-15

The disciples of John came to Jesus with the question, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast on many occasions, but not your disciples?"

Jesus answered them, "How can you expect wedding guests to mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? Time will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, then they will fast."

Commentary

We are told to listen to our wickedness and recount our sins. We are a nation that outwardly fasts and prays but we continue with our own pursuits of war, greed, business as usual, treating laborers unjustly, striking with wicked claw. God cares not for outward show but wants justice, release from bondage of those we have been enslaved, freedom for the oppressed, and that we share our bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and homeless, and do corporal works of mercy. We are to do to the Body of Christ, crucified and broken among us, what we would wish to do to the Bridegroom Christ. Then we will know the dawn of God over us and the Lord will hear us. But first we must banish oppression, war, lies and accusations from our midst. It's time to face ourselves as a nation and as individuals.

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Senior US diplomat sees GMA, also meets FVR, Cory

From page A1

ately with Ms Arroyo and former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Corason Aquino.

Hill's three-day visit to the Philippines followed Ms Arroyo's proclamation of a state of emergency on Friday last week and a Marine standoff at Fort Bonifacio on Sunday.

He met with Ms Arroyo at around 3 p.m. Tuesday and discussed regional issues, the joint RP-US military exercises, as well as the "perspective of the President on the state of play here."

US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop said Hill met with Aquino on Tuesday morning and with Ramos later in the afternoon.

"Clearly the current political situation in the Philippines is one of the subjects of my bilateral discussions here with the adminis-

tration," Hill said in the briefing at the US Embassy.

He said he also visited Zamboanga City on Wednesday to check on ongoing US-funded development projects and humanitarian missions of visiting US troops.

Hill said Washington welcomed Ms Arroyo's "desire to lift the state of national emergency as soon as possible, and I understand from her statement that in fact the government is reviewing that position."

No US interference

He maintained that Washington would not interfere in the resolution of the political crisis, saying he's "very confident" that the Filipino people and their democratic institutions "can solve the problems they got here."

"I want to make it very clear that addressing or resolving the

current situation is very much up to the Filipino people. Obviously from the US perspective, we want to see this dealt with in a democratic context that we've come to expect in the Philippines," Hill said.

"I don't think this is the time for American diplomats to come and be offering their advice. What you have is for the Philippines to resolve your own situation," he said. "We don't come here to tell people what to do or impose our solutions on people."

GMA meeting with Hill

By Hill's account, it appeared that before the Ms Arroyo went on TV on Wednesday to announce her willingness to lift the state of national emergency within 72 hours if recommended by her security advisers, she already had indicated this move to the American envoy in their meeting

the day before.

"The President laid out her thoughts on the situation and they were not unlike the thoughts that were laid out yesterday (Wednesday)," Hill said.

"She explained how in her view the Philippines got into the current situation and laid out her ideas on what will happen in the future."

"She gave a very clear statement yesterday publicly. What I heard privately was very consistent with what I heard publicly," he noted.

Hours after Ms Arroyo placed the country under a state of emergency on Feb. 24, the US government said it was "closely monitoring" the political crisis and called on the government to uphold the rule of law, protect civil liberties and human rights, and reject violence.

The US Embassy statement that day also included a reminder

for US citizens in the Philippines to take prudent steps to ensure their personal safety.

A second statement was issued on Sunday following the tense, six-hour standoff caused by a restive unit of Philippine Marines at their headquarters in Fort Bonifacio. On top of its previous appeal, the US Embassy further said it "strongly believes" that the military should remain professional, nonpolitical, and under civilian control.

Both statements carried no direct expression of support for the embattled Arroyo presidency.

Pretty normal procedure

"It's a pretty normal thing. I just want to understand the situation better," Hill replied when asked why he saw the need to meet with Ramos and Aquino considering that—as the inquiring reporter put it—both were

considered "on the other side of the fence."

"When anyone comes to a country you try to meet people in the government and outside the government. You try to sample a range of information and opinions. It's quite a normal thing to meet with retired politicians (in any country)," the US official added.

"When you have a former President that you can spend an hour talking to, you want to know the perspectives of a former president. We talked about US-Philippine relations, regional issues, and we talked about the ongoing political situation," Hill said when pressed if the two leaders raised specific concerns during their talks.

Hill arrived in Manila on Monday mainly to attend a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' Regional Forum on confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy.

Atienza wing ousts Drilon as LP president

From page A1

Tension gripped the gathering as former Education Undersecretary Chito Gascon, who was introduced by Atienza as "the spokesman and representative of Senate President Franklin Drilon," questioned the legality of the assembly, saying the election was not on the agenda and other officials of

the party were not present.

"What provision of the party constitution states that the party may hold a national assembly without an agenda?" Gascon asked. "The party should take a decision that would not create a burning bridge between its members and high-ranking officials."

But one congressman stood up and proceeded with a roll-call

vote, before even announcing that there was a quorum.

Obviously outnumbered, Gascon walked out of the Centennial Hall of the hotel amid booing. Among those present were 150 municipal mayors, 12 members of the party's National Executive Council (Neco), 16 congressmen, four governors, five vice governors, five city mayors

and a vice mayor.

Atienza said the election of a new set of LP officers was prompted by questions from members regarding the party's official stand on major issues, principally on the question: "Are we for or against President Arroyo?"

This led to the signing of a resolution by LP officials and members throwing their full support

behind the administration of Ms Arroyo.

Afterward, Gov. Sally Zaldivar-Perez of Antique moved for the declaration of all the party positions vacant, immediately followed by the election.

Drilon immediately assailed the proceedings.

"It is a rump convention, a big farce and an apparent effort by Malacañang to drum up political support for a beleaguered President Macapagal-Arroyo," Drilon said in a statement.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan echoed Drilon's view, saying "I do not recognize the legality of the election of new party officers. This is a very painful development for the party."

"It is most unfortunate that some party leaders decided to act as agents of Malacañang in its relentless effort to survive the ongoing political crisis," he added in a text.

Drilon maintained that he remained the party president as he pointed out that Atienza's faction constituted the minority.

"There were 103 members who elected me properly in the National Executive Council a year-and-a-half ago. And only 32 now called for an improper election. Theirs is the minority," he said on ANC.

His group, he said, would question this before the Commission on Elections and the

Supreme Court.

Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser on political affairs, denied Malacañang had a hand in Drilon's ouster. "It's a purely internal matter among LP members," he said.

Drilon also appealed to Ms Arroyo "to stop this wanton destruction of established political institutions in the country in the name of her political survival."

The Senate President said the convention was illegal because Atienza, as party chair, had no authority to call a convention. He said the Neco members were deceived into believing they were attending a convention on Proclamation No. 1017; and that only 32 of the 103-member Neco attended.

"Lito Atienza is the chairman of Liberal Party and under our constitution his functions are purely ceremonial. He has no power to call meeting of the Neco," he said.

The LP convention came two days after Drilon, Pangilinan, Manuel "Mar" Roxas II and Rodolfo Biazon, also party members, and independent Sen. Pia Cayetano filed a resolution condemning the acts carried out by the government in pursuit of Proclamation No. 1017 and seeking an inquiry into these.

The resolution was adopted in plenary on Tuesday night. With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Querubin back . . .

From page A1

you, Dad..." she said.

Minutes later, Querubin emerged from the airport, dressed in a white shirt and denims, his eyes hidden by dark sunglasses.

Escorted by two Marines and the airport security, he walked straight to his wife, ignoring the reporters waiting for a word with him.

The couple immediately boarded a white van that would take them to their quarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Flor had invited relatives and friends over for a get-together, "to give him support."

'Thank you'

In front of the Querubins' quarters was hung a streamer bearing the message: "Daddy Ariel, Thank you for your great example. We are proud of you."

Inside, Flor entertained about two dozen guests and reporters. Her husband mostly kept quiet.

He has been ordered not to speak to the media, she said.

But Marines spokesperson Maj. Melquiades Ordiales said there was no "gag order" on Querubin, who is a recipient of the military's highest award for bravery in combat, the Medal of Valor.

Ordiales said the colonel "could have chosen not to speak so as not to prejudice the investigation."

On Sunday, Querubin instigated a six-hour standoff at the Marine Corps headquarters in Fort Bonifacio to protest the sudden relief of their commandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda.

Querubin admitted that he had planned to lead a large Marine contingent to the protest rallies at Edsa on Feb. 24 but that Miranda had prevailed upon him to desist.

His close friend, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, who was also accused of plotting a withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo, was also relieved as commander of the 1st Scout Ranger

Regiment and ordered restricted to quarters in Fort Bonifacio.

Career as priority

Earlier at the airport, Flor said of her husband: "I know his priority is his career. I've already conditioned myself to be second among his priorities. But I know that what he has done is all for us."

According to Flor, her husband so "loves his career" that he will not find fulfillment other than being a soldier even if it will be more financially "gratifying" outside the military.

She said her husband had actually offered to resign but that the offer was turned down.

But despite what has happened, she said, "his career is not yet over."

Ordiales said Querubin would be under the custody of Brig. Gen. Nelson Allaga, the newly appointed Marines commandant.

"He is not restricted to quarters. He has no case so far. He will undergo investigation," said Ordiales.

Given up for dead

Querubin was so badly injured in the failed 1989 coup-attempt against then President Corason Aquino that he was given up for dead.

He was already piled among the cadavers, but a doctor saw his finger twitch and he was nursed back to health.

He later escaped from the hospital and was eventually granted amnesty in 1995.

Querubin was awarded the Medal of Valor for showing exemplary courage in fighting Moro rebels in 1999 in Lanao del Sur.

And now he has been stripped of his command of the 1st Marine Brigade.

Flor said she wept "every time I saw that news footage [of the emotional goodbye between the colonel and his men]."

"I saw it at least four times," she said. "He doesn't usually cry."

With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan

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GI sees Giuliani version in S. Leyte gov

From page A1

ordinary people offering sympathy to the people of Guinsaugon.

She was constantly on the move, giving instructions on how the overall search and rescue must proceed while consoling those who were getting disheartened.

[The search for survivors officially ended on the night of Feb. 24. Authorities decided to focus on retrieving bodies—Ed.]

Commemorative ceremony

The search for bodies entombed by the landslide officially ended yesterday, with a commemorative ceremony planned to provide closure to the tragedy, officials said.

Lerias said the 300-hectare wasteland that was Guinsaugon would be turned into a sanctuary where no new construction would be allowed due to safety and sanitation concerns.

"The Philippine Army will end the search today but will not leave the area," she said.

A total of 140 bodies had been retrieved, with the last one found Tuesday, and 972 people were still missing and feared dead, she said.

Today, a Mass will be held at the edge of the site, and posthumous awards will be given to government workers who died in the line of duty and to those who survived, she said.

A helicopter will fly a priest over the area to sprinkle holy water to bless it.

Representatives of the Indonesian and US governments—which still have humanitarian contingents in the province—will give statements, along with Philippine officials.

"(Today) we will have our commemorative ceremony, then it will be turned into a sanctuary," Lerias said. "We will have to green the area so we can control the soil."

Cross

Maj. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos said soldiers put up a concrete cross as a temporary shrine for Friday's ceremony until a permanent one is built.

The soldiers are also distributing relief goods to victims, constructing evacuation centers and securing the disaster area.

US Marines, who have been helping in the search efforts, on Sunday withdrew most of their forces, which peaked at about 600. But a small contingent stayed behind for humanitarian work, Parmer said earlier.

Other international groups also had left earlier, including search teams from Taiwan, Malaysia, Turkey and Spain. A contingent from Indonesia, which will provide mainly medical services to evacuees, will remain for a month.

Every night during the search and rescue operations, Lerias gathered all those involved in the effort to assess what they had accomplished for the day. She would then appear at a press briefing, not hesitating to answer every media query down to the last detail.

Inspiration

The sight of the busy governor was enough to inspire the multinational rescue effort to proceed despite the overwhelming prospect that none of some 1,000 residents buried under the rubble would still be found alive.

"She's keeping hope alive," Parmer said. "A lot of pressure is on her regarding the rescue. A lot of people are asking if it's time to stop the search. I praise her for keeping strong. This is her province. She's the overall leader."

When rumors circulated that rescuers were giving up, Lerias made it clear she was not giving up hope.

Life too precious

"Life is too precious," she told the INQUIRER. "If you have someone there under the rubble, wouldn't you take the chance?"

Parmer recalled the day after the tragedy when he and other US Marines debarked from their ship and saw the magnitude of the job ahead.

"Many of us were astonished, especially upon hearing reports that the people were buried about 30 meters deep in the mud," he said. "It seemed there was just no way for anybody to survive."

But after the Americans were briefed by the governor on what had to be done, their pessimism vanished.

No stranger to disaster

Lerias, who's now serving her third and last term, is no stranger to tragedy in her province.

In December 2003, three landslides hit Southern Leyte, killing more than 100 people. That, too, turned the governor from a politician to a hands-on leader and consoler.

But nothing could prepare a seasoned politician for the tragedy of Feb. 17 when a huge chunk of the mountain collapsed and crushed the entire Barangay Guinsaugon below it.

Lerias said she had been putting up a brave front for her people. "I'm not allowed to cry. I need to be strong for them."

A devout Catholic, she said she had been drawing strength from the thought that the tragedy was God's will and that "He will give you the means with which to cope with the challenge if only you believe."

Deluge of assistance

So far, there's been a deluge of assistance from all directions. Indeed, the heavens have not abandoned her people.

"I have a strong faith in God," she said. "It's not for us to question His intentions."

Lerias graduated from the University of the Philippines with a master's degree in speech and drama in 1975.

Born in Maasin, Southern Leyte, on June 16, 1945, Lerias is the chair of the Philippine National Red Cross, Southern Leyte chapter, and a member of the PNRC board of governors.

She is a military reservist with the rank of captain and commander of the 210th Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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GMA advised to lift 1017

From page A1

But they also said that even with the lifting of Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 declaring a state of national emergency, the authorities would continue to arrest those implicated in the supposed plot.

The other night, the PNP downgraded its alert status to heightened alert following reports that the nationwide security situation was normalizing.

A heightened alert means that only 75 percent of the 118,000-strong police force is on duty.

"We have [an] improving situation, in terms of everything, including the threat [to the Arroyo administration]," Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, the PNP spokesperson, said in a text message to reporters.

But Pagdilao said Lomibao had "reminded the regional directors to continue their vigilance and secure vital installations and key economic points."

"Regional directors may upgrade their alert level in their respective areas of responsibility [depending] on the prevailing situation," he said.

24 more hours

Pagdilao also said police would continue to monitor those identified as part of the supposed coup plot.

"Unless something happens, the direction is to recommend the lifting [of PP 1017]," Cruz said at the news conference.

He said the situation had "significantly improved" but that the authorities needed 24 more hours to see if the trend would continue.

Quoting Gen. Generoso Senga, Armed Forces chief of staff, Cruz said the AFP was in control of the Marines and the Scout Rangers, a number of whom were alleged to have conspired with certain groups to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

Lomibao said the PNP's Special Action Force, which was also alleged to be part of the supposed plot, was "now solid as ever."

"[S]o far, there has been a marked improvement in law and order; there has been no high profile incident for the past several days ... If this trend continues, we will be recommending the lifting of [PP 1017]," he said.

Gonzalez reported that many of the supposed plotters had been arrested and were now under tactical interrogation.

He said that while he and his colleagues were inclined to recommend the lifting of PP 1017, it was Ms Arroyo who would make the "judgment call" on the matter.

"My impression is that the President knows a lot of the situa-

tion on the ground, which I think she is also trying to ascertain based on what we are reporting to her," Gonzalez said.

No more trouble

Cruz said the defense department did not expect any more trouble to arise.

Asked about reports that the alleged coup plot was ongoing, he said the military would remain as vigilant as when it thwarted the supposed conspiracy.

Cruz reiterated the government's call for everyone to "insulate the AFP from politics, respect the Constitution and stop interfering in the military and the Marines."

"Leave them alone to do their job," he said.

As for reports that Senga continued to be courted by various groups bent on toppling the administration, Cruz vouched for the latter's integrity.

"There are no [groups] trying to convince Senga because they know he is a professional soldier who is solidly behind the Constitution, the Commander in Chief and the duly constituted authority," Cruz said.

He also expressed confidence that the Supreme Court would sustain PP 1017, just as it upheld Ms Arroyo when she declared a state of rebellion in 2001 and 2003—when ex-President Joseph Estrada's supporters took part in the bloody May Day siege of Malacañang, and when

a group of young officers and soldiers mounted the Oakwood mutiny in Makati City, respectively.

Enough powers

Gonzalez said that even with the lifting of emergency rule, there were "enough powers in the Revised Penal Code and the Constitution" to thwart plots against the administration.

He also said organizers of protest rallies should know that they should get permits or they would be violating the Public Assembly Act.

Lomibao said that once PP 1017 was lifted, the police would withdraw its troops from the offices of The Daily Tribune.

Asked what would bring back a similar scenario, Lomibao said: "If the danger is real and imminent, and there remains to be a conspiracy, a concerted one to bring down this government, the President, within her prerogative, can again perhaps declare a state of national emergency."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye gave the assurance that Ms Arroyo would make her decision based on information and assessments given her.

"All may rest assured that the President will act in the best interest of the people," Bunye said in a statement.

At the House, administration

22 solons question 1017 legality

By Armand N. Nocum

TWENTY-TWO OPPOSITION lawmakers led by House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno yesterday filed separate petitions questioning the constitutionality of Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, bringing to seven the number of groups legally contesting it.

Through lawyer Pacifico Agabin, Escudero's group asked the Supreme Court to stop Malacañang from imple-

menting PP 1017, which they said was "another capricious exercise of power" by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Like the other groups before them, the 22 congressmen asked the tribunal to issue a temporary restraining order on PP 1017, as well as all decrees, orders and issuances issued by Ms Arroyo or upon her authority.

They said they went to court "in view of the transcendental public interest ... involved and the extreme urgency for the exercise of judicial review."

allies led by Speaker Jose de Venecia urged the President to immediately lift PP 1017, saying she had "decisively nipped in the bud a coup attempt against her government."

Citing the "consensus" reached by members of the ruling Lakas-CMD and the majority coalition, De Venecia said there was no more threat to the republic although "vigilance must continue."

"We are recommending that the lifting of the emergency proclamation be done by next week. If it can be done this weekend, so much the better," he said.

Don't pressure GMA

Earlier, the House minority called for the lifting of PP 1017 on the basis of its constitutional and legal ramifications on civil liberties, press

freedom and due process.

In a joint statement, House Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay and Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina called on all sectors to "cease and desist from pressuring the Palace on [PP] 1017 pending its assessment of reports from the defense, police and justice chiefs on the current situation."

"We believe in the wisdom of the President in deciding on what is right and best for our country insofar as [PP] 1017 is concerned," said Salapuddin.

He added that Ms Arroyo's statement she would lift the declaration if the situation warranted it was "appropriate and assuring." *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto and Michael Lim Ubac*

Joker: Palace primary target is the media

From page A1

taking measured steps to achieve their goal," he added.

"Of all the rights enshrined, the freedom of the press is the most sacrosanct," Arroyo said.

"For example, if you deprive a person of his freedom of expression, only his right is damaged since he cannot speak freely. But if you deprive the media of (their) freedom, you deprive the whole country of free-flowing information," he said.

"It's not the right of one person that is damaged but that of the entire country. You damage the readership who rely on independent information," he said.

Arroyo said the Lopez scion told him that network executives warned off the police by reasoning out that that it would be better if the standoff were covered live to dispel rumors then spreading that the crowd at the military camp was growing.

Better to show

"They said it would be better to have it live and show what was really happening—that the numbers were not large," Arroyo said.

"And if they did not show anything, the people would have speculated and they would not have known that the administration won when it ended," he said.

Arroyo said that the lifting of the state of emergency would be meaningless if the administration continued to intimidate the media, which he said were the primary target of Proclamation No. 1017.

"The target for broadcast is ABS-CBN while the target for print is the INQUIRER. You two bicker but both of you are the targets," said Arroyo.

"They want to control the flow of information. They want to have a say on what should be aired or printed," he said.

While the government cannot legally control the print media, it can intimidate the broadcast industry through the National

Telecommunications Commission, Arroyo said.

Due process required

But he reminded the NTC that it could not penalize or close down radio or TV networks "without due process."

"There should be a hearing first as to whether it is justified or else it would be arbitrary. It cannot be just on the say-so of the NTC or the police," Arroyo said.

He emphasized that any media guidelines set up by the government for the press to follow could not "prevail" over the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of the press.

Catholics asked to say prayer in time of war

From page A1

is lifted soon," the council said in a statement.

The PCEC is composed of 85 denominations, 130 mission organizations and more than 20,000 local churches.

The PCEC had been steadfast in its support of Ms Arroyo in the midst of the "Hello Garci" controversy and allegations she manipulated the 2004 polls.

Bangon Pilipinas, led by evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva, Laban ng Masa chaired by former UP president Francisco Nemenzo, the Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya and the University of the Philippines said they would coordinate protest actions.

"This is a spontaneous coalition of patriotic Filipinos who cannot accept this arrogant proclamation of Mrs. Arroyo," said Villanueva, a defeated presidential candidate who accused the President of rigging the 2004 elections.

Villanueva warning

Villanueva, spiritual leader of the Jesus is Lord Movement, said the two million-strong Christian group would join protests if the government continued with its oppression of civil liberties.

'Oratio imperata' (to be recited in Mass)

"WE COME BEFORE YOU, GOD of power and mercy, as crisis of political leadership once again grips our country.

"An alleged coup attempt by forces of destabilization and the proclamation of a state of national emergency cripple our democratic institutions and sow uncertainty and fear in the hearts of citizens.

"Lord, banish both violence and falsehood from our midst.

"Make us realize that violence is never an answer to crisis and falsehood is never a foundation of a strong republic.

"Your Son has taught us that the truth will set us free.

"Help our national leaders to seek the truth and live by the truth.

"Give us the tranquil assurance of the truth.

"We implore your guidance, God of justice and peace, on those who enforce what the

state of emergency provides.

"Make them respect the constitutional rights of every citizen.

"And make us true patriots that protect within the bounds of law our right to assemble freely, our right to speak and write freely, and our right to engage in critical dialogue with authority.

"Lord, do not allow our human rights, dignity, and freedom to be sacrificed on the false

altar of national security or to be trampled upon by ugly lust for power.

"Your Son promised to give us true and lasting peace.

"In your mercy deliver us from all civil disturbances and grant us peace in our day. Amen.

"Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

"St. Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.

"That in all things God may be glorified."

The leaders warned other militant groups against dropping their vigilance.

"Its lifting may only be superficial but the threat of arrests and crackdown on political dissenters would remain," Nemenzo said.

He said the end of the emergency rule would not spell the end of the political crisis hounding Ms Arroyo.

Nemenzo said the lifting of Proclamation No. 1017 was merely a damage control measure aimed

at placating the growing opposition to the administration.

The University of the Philippines has opened its doors to all kinds of debate, protest actions against Proclamation No. 1017 and other issues.

Ateneo noise barrage

Yesterday, the Ateneo community staged its own protest. About 200 students, teachers and university personnel marched around the campus and on

Katipunan Avenue for 30 minutes, urging motorists to honk their horns. "Make noise for your rights," said one placard.

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said Ms Arroyo should listen to the people in the streets and not to her security advisers to learn the real situation.

"To lift the state of emergency, Arroyo would be relying on information from the same people who fed her unverified reports which were used to illegally de-

clare emergency rule," Reyes said in a statement.

"We cannot continue to be held hostage by the whims and faulty intelligence reports of her Cabinet security cluster. They are not reliable," he said.

In Baguio City, militant groups in the Cordillera will hold a "freedom run" on Saturday to call for the lifting of 1017 and the release of Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran.

In Cauayan City, businessmen warned that 1017 could trigger

more protests than promote peace.

Ilagan Board Member Ysmael Atienza said Beltran's arrest should have been done 20 years ago when he allegedly committed the offense.

Dr. Jesus Cruz Jr., owner of the Cruz Medical Hospital in Ilagan town, said the proclamation was "a shield to (hide) its real intention—to impose martial law."

In Bulacan, Fr. Rolando de Leon, spokesperson of Alyansa ng Mamamayan Para sa Pantaong Karapatan and Bayan, said 1017 only intensified what he described as the abuse of power by Ms Arroyo.

In Cebu City, students of UP Cebu yesterday launched "Puasa para sa Kausaban" (fasting for change) to protest 1017.

At least five campus organizations joined the protest asking the students to give up what they love doing the most for five days, according to Sanlakas Youth spokesperson Aaron Pedrosa.

With reports from Christian V. Esguerra and Blanche S. Rivera, Desiree Caluza and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

For the poor, daily life is a 'state of emergency'

From page A1

"state of emergency."

The couple have been closely following the live coverage, but more for their amusement and to collect bits of gossip than to keep abreast of current events.

For them and the 40 percent of Filipinos who live on less than P100 a day, Ms Arroyo's "state of emergency" is nothing new—they have been living in one for most of their lives.

The couple said the declaration on Friday last week, which allowed Ms Arroyo to use the military to quell an alleged coup plot, was just another page in the Philippines' catalogue of political upheavals that take the government focus away from solving the myriad problems of the poor.

"State of emergency? Sure, every day it's always been a state of emergency. Emergency to look for food to put on our tables and emergency to look for spare change to give our children for school," the portly Aguabiva, 37, told Agence France-Presse over the din of a passing train packed with factory workers.

As an idealistic teenager in 1986, Aguabiva took part in the "people power" uprising that toppled the 20-year regime of dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Free lunch

He confesses to having joined anti-government protests recently, but only to get a free lunch and a "few hundred pesos" to take home to his wife Nerisa, a laun-

drywoman. Political protesters are often trucked in from slum areas and paid to participate in rallies.

"What will that achieve? Nothing. Besides, it's tiring standing under the sun the whole day," Aguabiva said, as he bashed the base of a toilet bowl abandoned by a neighbor who left the slum ahead of proposed redevelopment.

"I can still use this. Gloria's government will demolish our houses by this month, you know," he said.

His neighbor, Liza Lakadim, has a far bigger problem. Her husband Johnny is comatose in the hospital, and the couple's five young children have been scattered to distant relatives around the metropolis.

The couple were picking garbage and scrap to sell to recyclers at a dump early this year when security guards fired shots and Johnny was severely wounded.

Game only for rich

"What do we care about protests and coup d'etats and Ms Arroyo's emergency power? That's a game for the rich and powerful and we, the poor, will continue to toil every day regardless of the result," Lakadim said, crying.

"We don't have time for these things. I need to get my children, and try to look for a job," she said. "Our bellies are rumbling and politics can't feed us."

Ms Arroyo has never enjoyed the support of the poor, many of

whom still identify with their fallen idol, deposed leader Joseph Estrada. He was ousted by a military-backed revolt in 2001 over corruption allegations, leaving then Vice President Arroyo to finish his six-year term.

She won the presidential election in 2004, but many Filipinos believe the balloting was rigged. She survived an impeachment attempt last year.

'They are all useless'

Under the "state of emergency," Ms Arroyo has detained or filed charges against members of the security forces, leftist legislators and others to quash what she said was an attempt to unseat her.

Despite Ms Arroyo's promise of

economic reforms, more and more Filipinos report having nothing to eat. A survey by the Social Weather Stations research group in January said 2.8 million families reported experiencing "severe hunger" in December last year, a significant increase from a survey four months earlier.

But many of the poor are simply unwilling to return to the streets and topple yet another government. That may be Ms Arroyo's luck.

"Why should we go out to the streets because some colonel asks us to? They (politicians) are all useless," said taxi driver Alexander Inigo, 47.

"The politicians don't matter to me. They are not interested in me. Life goes on." *AFP*

PNP chief: 6 Magdalo officers ready to tell all

From page A1

planning to join the street protests on Feb. 24, the 20th anniversary of Edsa I, and withdraw support from the Arroyo administration were Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Col. Ariel Querubin.

At a Senate hearing on Wednesday, Lomibao said that part of the "factual basis" for the proclamation of a state of national emergency on Feb. 24 were the testimonies of the six officers who squealed on their alleged fellow plotters after they learned that the Magdalo rebels were supposedly in cahoots with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

It was the Magdalo group that launched a coup attempt in 2003.

"Another factual basis, your honor, is the statements of Armed Forces officers who withdrew their support or who withdrew their participation in the planning or in the execution of the plan to take over this government," Lomibao said during the hearing on the budget of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Members of PMA Class 1997

Lomibao identified the six officers as Captains Allan Jones Salem, Rey Gubantes, Dennis Solomon and Rey Tiongson, and First Lieutenants Mario Bautista

and Michael Cuarteros—all members of Philippine Military Academy Class 1997.

Lomibao said the officers were "eyewitnesses" to the plot to oust Ms Arroyo by rightist and leftist rebels.

The police have charged with rebellion and coup d'etat 16 people, including five Bayan Muna party-list members of the House of Representatives, founders of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement led by former Sen. Gringo Honasan, and Jose Ma. Sison, founding chair of the CPP.

They are among some 50 people accused of rebellion for allegedly conspiring to overthrow the government.

Also being investigated are former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and political strategist Pastor "Boy" Saycon for their supposed involvement in the plot to oust Ms Arroyo.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has "invited" Cojuangco, Philippine Olympic Committee chair, and Saycon, Council on Philippine Affairs secretary general, in connection with the probe of a Time magazine article implicating them in the foiled coup plot.

Upon the request of the police, the Bureau of Immigration on Wednesday placed on its watch-list 51 people linked to the plot.



UNDER HEAVY GUARD, the Magdalo soldiers arrive at the Makati City Regional Trial Court for a hearing last Tuesday. Which of them are ready to talk?

REM ZAMORA

This week, the police said part of the plan to unseat Ms Arroyo was the takeover of Camp Crame and an international airport by men from the PNP-SAF.

"The PNP-SAF units were assigned to seize Camp Crame and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia), hold hostage yours truly, and force a declaration of a withdrawal of support from the Arroyo government," Lomibao said.

This was the most detailed disclosure of the seriousness of the alleged threat that faced the administration last week.

The SAF had planned the attack on the PNP headquarters and Naia twice in January—on

the 14th and then again, on the 18th and 19th, the PNP chief said. They were aborted after Lomibao himself confronted one of the SAF commanders.

Marines, Scout Rangers

There were supposed to be similar moves by two other elite military units—the Philippine Navy's Marines and the Philippine Army's Scout Rangers, according to Lomibao.

When the plans were aborted, the SAF, Marines and Scout Rangers shifted their focus to joining the protest actions on Feb. 24, at the height of the 20th anniversary of the People Power Revolution, Lomibao said.

"The plan was for the SAF contingent based in Bicutan (in Taguig City) to be ferried to Edsa in civilian buses in full uniform and under arms although with muzzles down," he said.

"They would link with the civilian components on Edsa (in a manifestation of withdrawal of support from the GMA government," he said.

Anti-Arroyo forces were to mobilize some 80,000 people on Edsa, at the Edsa Shrine, at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila and at the Bonifacio Shrine in Caloocan City on that day, he said.

"The objective (was to) throw (to) the place, according to Joma Sison of the CP?" Lomibao said. "These confluence of events and personalities presented a clear and present danger that had to be acted on, and we did just in time."

Communiqué

Besides the statements of the six officers, the other basis for the President's declaration of the state of national emergency last week were the documents seized from Magdalo officer 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, including a communiqué from Sison dated Dec. 26.

In the communiqué, Sison said that communist rebels "must develop relentlessly the broad unit-

ed front to isolate and destroy the Arroyo regime," according to Lomibao.

"This can allow the legal forces of the national democratic movement, the conservative opposition parties and the anti-Arroyo sections of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to unite and overthrow the regime," Lomibao quoted the communiqué as saying.

"It would appear that from the group who are out to overthrow the regime, especially the (CCP), they would do all means to bring down this government," he told the senators.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said that even if the rebel soldiers marched unarmed at protest rallies, they would still be violating the Constitution and be liable for committing coup d'etat.

"The Armed Forces shall be insulated from partisan politics. No member of the military shall participate in any political activity, direct or indirect, except to vote," Santiago said, quoting the 1987 Constitution's general provisions.

"Plus, it does not need arms to be guilty of the crime under the Penal Code of inciting to rebellion or insurrection. You can incite simply by marching even without arms," she added. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Margaux C. Ortiz*

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Saddam admits giving orders which led to executions in '80s

32 killed in Iraq sectarian bloodshed

BAGHDAD—SADDAM HUSSEIN ADMITTED IN COURT ON Wednesday that he gave orders that led to the execution of Shiite Muslims in the 1980s, but justified the punishment as his right as Iraq's president, saying: "Where is the crime?"

Saddam made the admission, along with another that he ordered farmland to be razed, during his second day in court this week on charges of crimes against humanity.

In hours of proceedings, prosecutors read out documents, showed satellite images and played audio tapes in an attempt to link Saddam to the execution of 148 Shiites from Dujail after an attempt on his life in the village in July 1982.

A US diplomat familiar with the court said Saddam's statements were damning evidence that could lead trial judges to decide there is sufficient evidence to issue a guilty verdict.

"I referred them to the revolutionary court according to the law. Awad was implementing the law, he had a right to convict and acquit," Saddam said, referring to his co-accused Awad al-Bandar, the former chief of the Revolutionary Court.

"I razed them ... we specified the farmland of those who were convicted and I signed," said Saddam, who faces hanging if convicted.

"It's the right of the state to confiscate or to compensate. So where is the crime?"

Describing how gunmen fired machine guns as his motorcade drove through the town during a visit, Saddam said: "I saw the bullets with my own eyes."

The trial, which began last October, was adjourned until March 12, the latest in a series of adjournments in the stilted process that some international observers have criticized.

Saddam was uncharacteristically subdued in court as chief prosecutor Jaafar al-Moussawi presented what he said were documents containing Saddam's handwriting, showed aerial pictures of fields laid waste around Dujail and played an audio tape of Saddam in discussion with a Baath party official.

On Tuesday, Moussawi presented what he said was a death warrant signed by Saddam.

In previous proceedings, the judge heard testimony from witnesses recounting how they were tortured by Saddam's aides, but was shown no direct evidence linking Saddam to the crimes.

Prosecutors hope the Dujail case will prove

more clear cut than other, more complex cases involving charges of genocide where Saddam's responsibility may be more difficult to prove.

Defense counsel has argued that Saddam, a Sunni who justified his harsh rule by the need for national unity, was Iraq's president at the time and that he acted within the law.

"What we saw today was not Saddam admitting guilt, but admitting to the fact that he acted in accordance with his official duties and powers," said Nehal Bhuta, a legal expert from Human Rights Watch who has been monitoring the case.

Following a week of sectarian violence that has killed hundreds and pitched Iraq toward civil war, Saddam used an opportunity to address the court to recall the unity of Iraqis in the war he waged against Iran in the 1980s.

The former leader's trial has been overshadowed by fears that Iraq's sectarian tensions are out of control, but Saddam, who has dominated court proceedings in the past with lengthy tirades against the US-backed tribunal, spoke of unity.

"Saddam didn't win in 1988 but the Iraqi people won ... Arab and Kurds and all other religions and sects," he said.

"The people must be united," he said. "All religions, all ethnic groups."

When chief judge Raouf Abdel-Rahman, a Kurd who has been strict with the eight defendants, politely asked Saddam to finish, Saddam said: "Give me some time, I have been your president for 35 years. I am still the president of Iraq according to the constitution."

Saddam's calls for Iraqi unity come a week after suspected al-Qaida militants bombed a Shiite shrine in Samarra, sparking reprisal killings against minority Sunnis and stalling US-backed efforts to forge a government of national unity that would include Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds.

The trial has been marred by the killing of two defense lawyers, the resignation of the previous judge and concerns by international human rights groups who say violence in Iraq makes a fair trial impossible.

Reuters



FORMER Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (bottom), Mizher Abdullah Rawed (center) and Taha Yassin Ramadan laugh during their trial in Baghdad March 1. Saddam and seven others are charged with crimes against humanity in connection with the execution of 148 villagers from Dujail after an assassination attempt on his life there in 1982.

BAGHDAD—BOMBERS KILLED at least 32 people, including two British soldiers, in Iraq on Tuesday as tanks guarded Sunni mosques amid fears of a new outbreak of sectarian violence.

Three bombs went off in quick succession in Shiite areas of Baghdad, killing at least 30 people and wounding 130, a security official and medics said.

Twenty-four of the fatalities died in two attacks.

In one, a suicide bomber wearing an explosives vest blew himself up next to a queue of people waiting to buy kerosene in Al-Amin, southeast Baghdad, while in the other, a car bomb exploded in the city's south-eastern district of Jadida, an interior ministry official said.

Those two attacks wounded 112 people, he said. He had earlier said that 23 had died just in the single attack in Al-Amin.

Another six people were killed in a car bomb attack near a market in the central Karada district, he said, adding 18 others were wounded.

In southern Iraq, two British soldiers were killed on Tuesday, the defense ministry in London told AFP. A third soldier in the US-led multinational force was wounded in the incident near Amara.

Iraqi police said a roadside bomb targeted a British patrol on the outskirts of the southern city.

The coordinated attacks hit Baghdad just one day after the authorities lifted a daytime curfew and a vehicle ban in the capital.

Earlier on Tuesday, gunmen planted a bomb at the entrance of the Sunni Al-Hurriya mosque, in the northern Al-Hurriya neighborhood of the capital. It damaged the entrance but caused no casualties.

The latest flare-up of violence follows days of sectarian bloodshed triggered by the bombing last Wednesday of a Shiite shrine in the northern town of Samarra. AFP

REUTERS

Video shows Bush, security officials clearly warned before Katrina struck

By Margaret Ebrahim and John Solomon

WASHINGTON—IN DRAMATIC AND SOMETIMES agonizing terms, federal disaster officials warned President George W. Bush and his homeland security chief before Hurricane Katrina struck that the storm could breach levees, put lives at risk in New Orleans' Superdome and overwhelm rescuers, according to confidential video footage.

Bush didn't ask a single question during the final briefing before Katrina struck on Aug. 29, but he assured soon-to-be-battered state officials: "We are fully prepared."

The footage—along with seven days of transcripts of briefings obtained by The Associated Press—show in excruciating detail that while federal officials anticipated the tragedy that unfolded in New Orleans and elsewhere along the Gulf Coast, they were fatally slow to realize they had not mustered enough resources to deal with the unprecedented disaster.

Linked by secure video, Bush expressed a confidence on Aug. 28 that starkly contrasted with the dire warnings his disaster chief and numerous federal, state and local officials provided during the four days before the storm.

A top hurricane expert voiced "grave concerns" about the levees and then-Federal Emergency Management Agency chief Michael Brown told the president and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff that he feared there weren't enough disaster teams to help evacuees at the Superdome.

"I'm concerned about ... their ability to respond to a catastrophe within a catastrophe," Brown told his bosses the afternoon before Katrina made landfall.

The White House and Homeland Security Department urged the public Wednesday not to read too much into the video footage.

"I hope people don't draw conclusions from the president getting a single briefing," presidential spokesperson Trent Duffy said, citing a variety of orders and disaster declarations Bush signed before the storm made landfall. "He received multiple briefings from multiple officials, and he was completely engaged at all times."

Homeland Security spokesperson Russ Knocke said his department would not release the full set of videotaped briefings, saying most transcripts—though not the videotapes—from the sessions were provided to congressional investigators months ago.

"There's nothing new or insightful on these tapes," Knocke said. "We actively participated in the lessons learned review and we continue to

participate in the Senate's review and are working with them on their recommendation."

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, a critic of the administration's Katrina response, had a different take after watching the footage Wednesday afternoon from an AP reporter's camera.

"I have kind of a sinking feeling in my gut right now," Nagin said. "I was listening to what people were saying—they didn't know, so therefore it was an issue of a learning curve. You know, from this tape it looks like everybody was fully aware."

Some of the footage and transcripts from briefings Aug. 25-31 conflicts with the defenses that federal, state and local officials have made in trying to deflect blame and minimize the political fallout from the failed Katrina response:

- Homeland Security officials have said the "fog of war" blinded them early on to the magnitude of the disaster. But the video and transcripts show federal and local officials discussed threats clearly, reviewed long-made plans and understood Katrina would wreak devastation of historic proportions. "I'm sure it will be the top 10 or 15 when all is said and done," National Hurricane Center's Max Mayfield warned the day Katrina lashed the Gulf Coast.

- "I don't buy the 'fog of war' defense," Brown told the AP in an interview Wednesday. "It was a fog of bureaucracy."

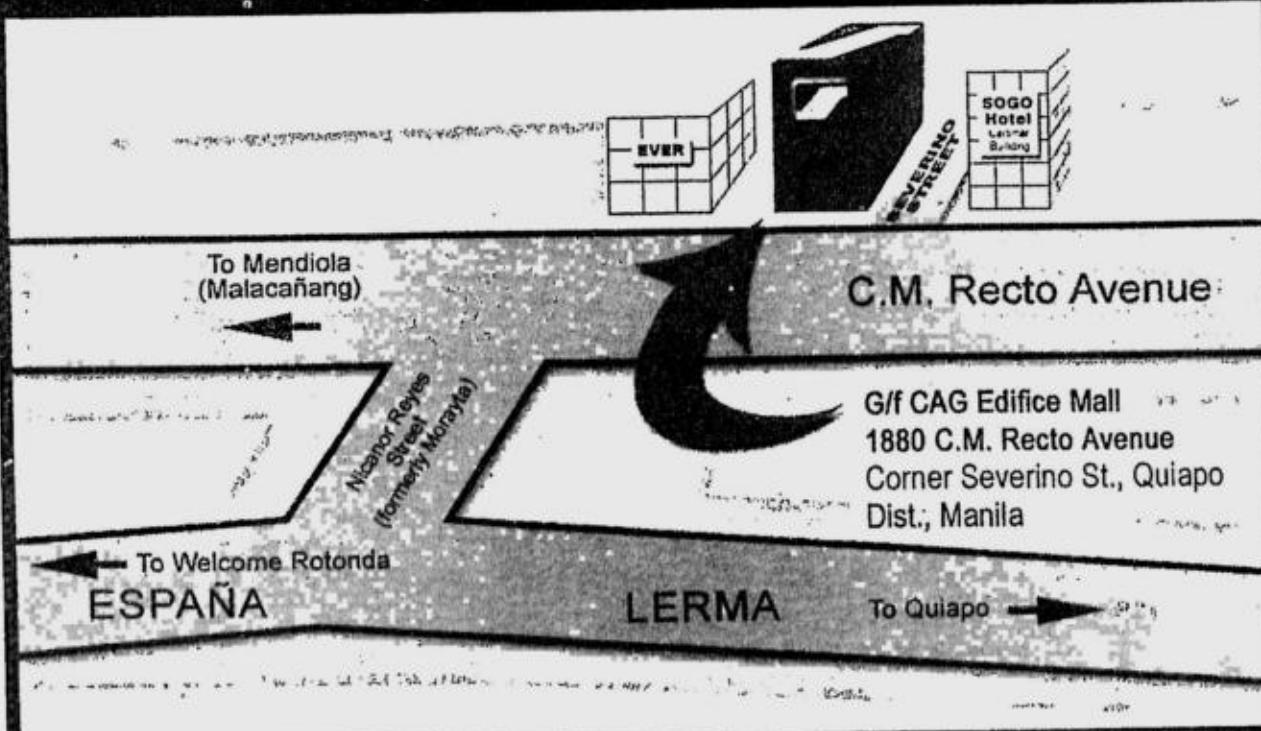
- Bush declared four days after the storm, "I don't think anybody anticipated the breach of the levees" that gushed deadly floodwaters into New Orleans. He later clarified, saying officials believed, wrongly, after the storm passed that the levees had survived. But the transcripts and video show there was plenty of talk about that possibility even before the storm—and Bush was worried too.

White House deputy chief of staff Joe Haggin, Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco and Brown discussed fears of a levee breach the day the storm hit.

"I talked to the president twice today, once in Crawford and then again on Air Force One," Brown said. "He's obviously watching the television a lot, and he had some questions about the Dome, he's asking questions about reports of breaches."

- Louisiana officials angrily blamed the federal government for not being prepared but the transcripts shows they were still praising FEMA as the storm roared toward the Gulf Coast and even two days afterward. "I think a lot of the planning FEMA has done with us the past year has really paid off," Col. Jeff Smith, Louisiana's emergency preparedness deputy director, said during the Aug. 28 briefing. AP

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3 charged in record UK bank heist

LONDON—THREE PEOPLE WERE CHARGED Wednesday in connection with the record 53.1 million pound (78 million euro, \$92 million) robbery at a cash depot in southeast England a week ago, police said.

They included car dealer John Fowler, 57, charged with conspiracy to rob the Securitas depot at Tonbridge, Kent and with kidnapping the depot's manager and his wife and young son.

The others were Stuart Royle, 47, charged with conspiracy to rob, and Kim Shackleton, 39, charged with handling stolen goods, a spokesperson for Kent Police said, as an intensive effort to solve the crime gathered pace.

The three—the first to be charged in connection with the heist—were to appear at Maidstone magistrates court in Kent at 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

"I remain pleased with the progress of this case," Kent Police assistant chief constable Adrian Leppard, who is heading up the investigation, said in a statement.

"This investigation is likely to continue for many months and possibly years as we track down those responsible and indeed all of the stolen money," he said.

"Future success will rely on thorough and painstaking detective work, something we are very good at in Kent."

A Kent Police spokesperson added that a woman arrested on Monday has now been released on bail.

Elizabeth Howe, chief crown prosecutor in Kent, said: "I have been working closely with the investigation team from the start. We have

preferred these very serious charges after due examination of the existing evidence."

Sky News television, quoting police sources, said police had found "a substantial amount of money" during a fourth day of investigation at a country estate in southeast England.

The gang that carried out the robbery, said to be six-strong, kidnapped depot manager Colin Dixon, 51, who lived in seaside Herne Bay, and held his wife Lynn, 45, and 9-year-old son Craig hostage.

They were then left tied up, along with 14 other workers at the site, as the robbers fled with 53,116,760 pounds in cash.

The haul was more than double the amount taken in the previous record heist of 26.5 million pounds stolen from a Belfast bank in December 2004.

Forensic experts were examining a white truck thought to have been used to carry the loot out of the depot, in a sophisticated heist that involved the abduction of the facility's manager and his family.

Staff at the Tonbridge depot returned to work Wednesday for the first time since last week's robbery, Securitas said, adding that 14 members of staff who were also held by the gang were still getting counseling.

"We are just trying to get back to normal," company spokesperson Carl Courtney said.

Some 20 officers stopped more than 600 vehicles during road checks at four key locations across Kent overnight Tuesday and asked motorists if they had seen anything in the area on the night of the robbery. AFP

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Top Islamic Jihad commander killed as blast blows up his car

GAZA—ISLAMIC JIHAD'S MOST SENIOR commander in the Gaza Strip was killed on Wednesday by an explosion that tore through his car, the Palestinian militant group said, blaming the Israeli army, which denied involvement.

In the occupied West Bank, Palestinian gunmen shot dead an Israeli at a petrol station outside a Jewish settlement, the army said.

Witnesses to the death of Abu al-Waleed al-Dahdoh, head of Islamic Jihad's armed wing in the Gaza Strip, said his car blew up as he opened one of its doors and that an Israeli military aircraft was flying overhead at the time.

The Israeli army denied any involvement, saying it did not operate in Gaza.

But Interim Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said: "Whoever hears the news knows that not a day goes by when our security forces don't receive an order and don't act to prevent an attempted attack, to reach the murderers by surprise before they can get an attack rolling."

In a speech ahead of March 28 general election, Olmert vowed Israel would not permit "a single launcher of rockets to get a moment of rest. We will seek them out everywhere and reach them ... without compromise or hesitation, day and night."

Describing Dahdoh's death as an assassination, Nabil Abu Rdairah, a spokesperson for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, called for world pressure on Israel to resume peace talks.

Prospects for a resumption of negotiations have dimmed since the Islamic militant group

Hamas, sworn to Israel's destruction, heavily defeated Abbas's Fatah faction in a Jan. 25 election.

Olmert said Israel regarded Hamas as an enemy but would pursue even "the slightest flicker of hope" for peace.

Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni said on a visit to Vienna that Israel didn't rule out talks with Hamas if it recognized the Jewish state and renounced violence.

"I never say never," she told reporters.

Chanting "revenge, revenge," hundreds of Islamic Jihad gunmen gathered outside Gaza's Shifa Hospital after hearing that Dahdoh's body had been taken there.

"This is an Israeli assassination that killed one of our most important commanders," said Khader Habib, an Islamic Jihad leader.

Abu Adallah, a spokesperson for the group, said: "Our rockets will rain down on (Israelis). Islamic Jihad's armed wing will not remain silent and will respond with all its might to avenge the death of its leader."

Reuters

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

SEC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 4
Series of 2006
SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS

The Commission, in its Resolution No. 114, Series of 2006, approved the adoption in its rules and regulations of the following accounting standards, as approved by the Accounting Standards Council:

Philippine Financial Reporting Standards (PFRS)¹

PFRS	IFRS	Title	Effectivity Date	Supersedes
PFRS 6	IFRS 6	Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources	1/1/06	-
PFRS 7	IFRS 7	Financial Instruments; Disclosures	1/1/07	PAS 30 & 32 (in part)

Amendments to Philippines Accounting Standards (PAS)²

Title	Effectivity Date
Amendments to PAS 39: Cash Flow Hedge Accounting of Forecast Intragroup Transactions	1/1/06
Amendments to PAS 39: The Fair Value Option	1/1/06
Amendments to PAS 39 and PFRS 4: Financial Guarantee Contracts	1/1/06
Amendments to PAS 1: Capital Disclosures	1/1/07

The above-mentioned *effectivity date* refers to annual periods beginning on or after the effectivity date indicated.

Copies of these new/revised accounting standards will be available at the offices of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA).

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Issued this 23rd of February 2006 at EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) FE B. BARIN
Chairperson

¹ Philippine Financial Reporting Standards correspond to the adopted International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

² Philippine Accounting Standards correspond to the adopted International Accounting Standards (IAS).

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Bush, Indian PM seal landmark nuclear accord

NEW DELHI—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Thursday sealed a nuclear deal seen as the bedrock of a new strategic partnership, with both hailing the pact as historic.

The agreement came during intensive talks in the Indian capital which also touched on bilateral economic ties and cooperation in space travel, agriculture and health, officials said.

"I was particularly pleased that we have reached an understanding on the implementation of our agreement on civil nuclear cooperation of July 18, 2005 ... we have made history today," Singh said.

"We concluded today an historic agreement on nuclear power ... it is a necessary agreement, it will help both our peoples," added Bush at the joint press conference.

The deal, billed as the highlight of Bush's three-day trip to India, commits Washington to seek approval from the US Congress and countries of the Nuclear Suppliers Group to lift restrictions on sharing civilian nuclear technology with India.

"Now it is for the US to go to Congress for the necessary amendments and it will approach the Nuclear Supplier Group," Singh said.

Thursday's agreement capped months of negotiations after Bush and Singh agreed on the broad outline of a deal during Singh's visit to Washington last July.

Bush also paid glowing tribute to burgeoning Indo-US ties, declaring India a partner on all fronts.

"We are working as partners to make the world safer," Bush told reporters, stressing the sharing of information on, and determination to defeat, terrorism.



US PRESIDENT George W. Bush, left, and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in a joint press conference at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, India, March 2.

"We are cooperating on the military front," he said, also praising India's help in spreading democracy, notably in Afghanistan.

"We worked as partners responding to the tsunami," which struck south Asia on Dec. 26, 2004, killing tens of thousands.

"Our relationship is changing dramatically,"

the US leader declared.

New Delhi was much closer to Moscow than Washington during the Cold War. But the collapse of the Soviet Union followed by reform and economic liberalization in New Delhi since the 1990s started a shift towards the United States.

By Tom Raum

WASHINGTON—WHAT SHOULD have been a triumphant moment for President George W. Bush in Afghanistan also served as a vivid reminder of setbacks in his war against terrorism: His surprise visit came at a time of increasing violence and drug trafficking in the country. And Osama bin Laden remains at large, more than four years after Bush demanded his capture, "dead or alive."

Bush, who likes to salute Afghanistan as a beacon for emerging democracies, had to confront that reality at a news conference in Kabul on Wednesday when two of the four questions put to him and Afghan President Hamid Karzai dealt with the fugitive architect of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

"I am confident he will be brought to justice," Bush said with a bravado not shared by many military analysts. Bush suggested the issue was "not a matter of if ... but when."

Bin Laden is widely believed to be in hiding in rugged, remote areas along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, most likely in Pakistan.

"The problem is, the longer this goes on, the harder it becomes," said Kurt Campbell, former deputy assistant secretary of defense for Asia and the Pacific. "The worst truth is that Bin Laden is welcomed in much of Pakistan, and can hide out and be protected by the local community with something close to impunity," he said.

Campbell said Islamic anger to-

ward the West over cartoons published in Europe depicting the prophet Muhammad have helped to build even more sympathy in the region for Bin Laden.

Still, Bush's visit was important, particularly at a time when conditions are worsening, because it "helps remind Americans that the job is not done, far from it, in Afghanistan," said Campbell, now with the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Bush's surprise four-hour stopover on his way to India comes as the president is suffering at home from near-record-low approval ratings and fresh questions about his conduct of the war on terrorism, long his strongest issue in public opinion polls.

Violence linked to al-Qaida and other terror groups is increasing both in Iraq and Afghanistan. And the administration is coming under widespread bipartisan attack for its decision—now under review—to let a Dubai-owned company based in the United Arab Emirates take over management of some terminals at six of the nation's largest ports.

Analysts suggest that many of the destructive tactics used in Iraq, including suicide bombings and self-made roadside explosives, are being used with increasing frequency in Afghanistan.

More than two dozen suicide attacks in recent months have fueled Afghan suspicions that al-Qaida and Taliban militants are using Pakistan as base for launching terror strikes in Afghanistan.

Blast near US consulate in Karachi ahead of Bush visit

KARACHI—A CAR BOMB OUTSIDE THE US consulate in Karachi killed an American and at least four other people on Thursday, but President George W. Bush said "terrorists and killers" would not stop his scheduled visit to Pakistan.

The blast came less than 48 hours before

Bush was due to hold talks in Pakistan on Saturday, though he is not expected to visit the southern city of Karachi during his short visit.

Addressing a news conference in New Delhi just hours after the blasts, Bush said he wouldn't change his plan to go to Pakistan at the end of his three-day visit to India. This is

Bush's first visit to south Asia.

"I've been briefed on the bombings. We have lost at least one US citizen in the bombing, a foreign service officer," Bush told reporters in the Indian capital.

"Terrorists and killers are not going to prevent me from going to Pakistan." Reuters

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Thaksin pleads with foes to drop poll boycott



THAKSIN

BANGKOK—THAI PRIME MINISTER Thaksin Shinawatra pleaded Thursday with opposition parties to drop their boycott of next month's elections, as he filed his candidacy to stand in the troubled polls.

Thaksin was greeted by hundreds of cheering supporters who handed him pink roses and chanted, "Fight, fight" as he entered the downtown Bangkok stadium where the Election Commission held the nomination process.

Rumors that Thaksin might resign or be removed have swirled around Bangkok all week, moving the stock market and forcing top military leaders to reassure the public that they would stay out of politics.

But with only four largely unknown parties running against Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai (Thais Love Thais) party, the premier begged the leading opposition to drop their boycott of the snap polls set for April 2 to restore credibility to the electoral

process.

"All the election laws in effect today were written by Democrats. I'm running under rules written by Democrats. I plead with them to run in the election," Thaksin said.

The Democrat Party was the dominant force in Thai politics for decades, but was trounced by Thaksin's TRT in 2001 and 2005 elections.

Amid weekly street protests demanding his resignation, the Democrats and two other opposition

parties have boycotted the polls, demanding that Thaksin first commit to constitutional reforms.

If the opposition parties change their minds, they have until Friday afternoon to name their candidates for prime minister.

Thaksin urged the opposition to take a lesson from neighboring Burma, where the military government has detained Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi for her campaign for democracy.

"Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar is

protesting for the government to hold elections, but in our country, we are open for elections but they don't want to run," Thaksin told reporters.

But Democrat leader Abhisit Vejjajiva late Wednesday ruled out any compromise with Thaksin, vowing to stick to their boycott as part of the party's fight against "dictatorship."

"We do it mainly to stop a government that betrays people, that steals from its people under the guise of democracy," Abhisit told foreign reporters.

AFP

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The original sin

THE PHILIPPINE JESUITS ARE NOT THE ONLY RELIGIOUS order trying to shepherd their community in these trying times. However, they do enjoy a reputation for intellectual rigor and mental discipline that traditionally guarantees them widespread attention, if not agreement. Since the present political crisis began, the Philippine province of the Society of Jesus has made the effort to publish—and publicize—guidelines for discerning the situation to their fellow religious, faculty, staff and even students.

The Jesuits, since the Third Republic, have had a tradition of being actively engaged in the political sphere in pursuit of reform. The national condition prior to martial law was best expressed by Jesuit Fr. Pacifico Ortiz's invocation before the State of the Nation Address, after which event, Ferdinand Marcos was assaulted by protesters, igniting the First Quarter Storm. Ortiz (a former presidential chaplain) became a delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention, a tradition continued by Fr. Joaquin Bernas, SJ. The various Ateneos in the Philippines have as much a connection to the grass roots as any other organization, because of their decades-long immersion programs.

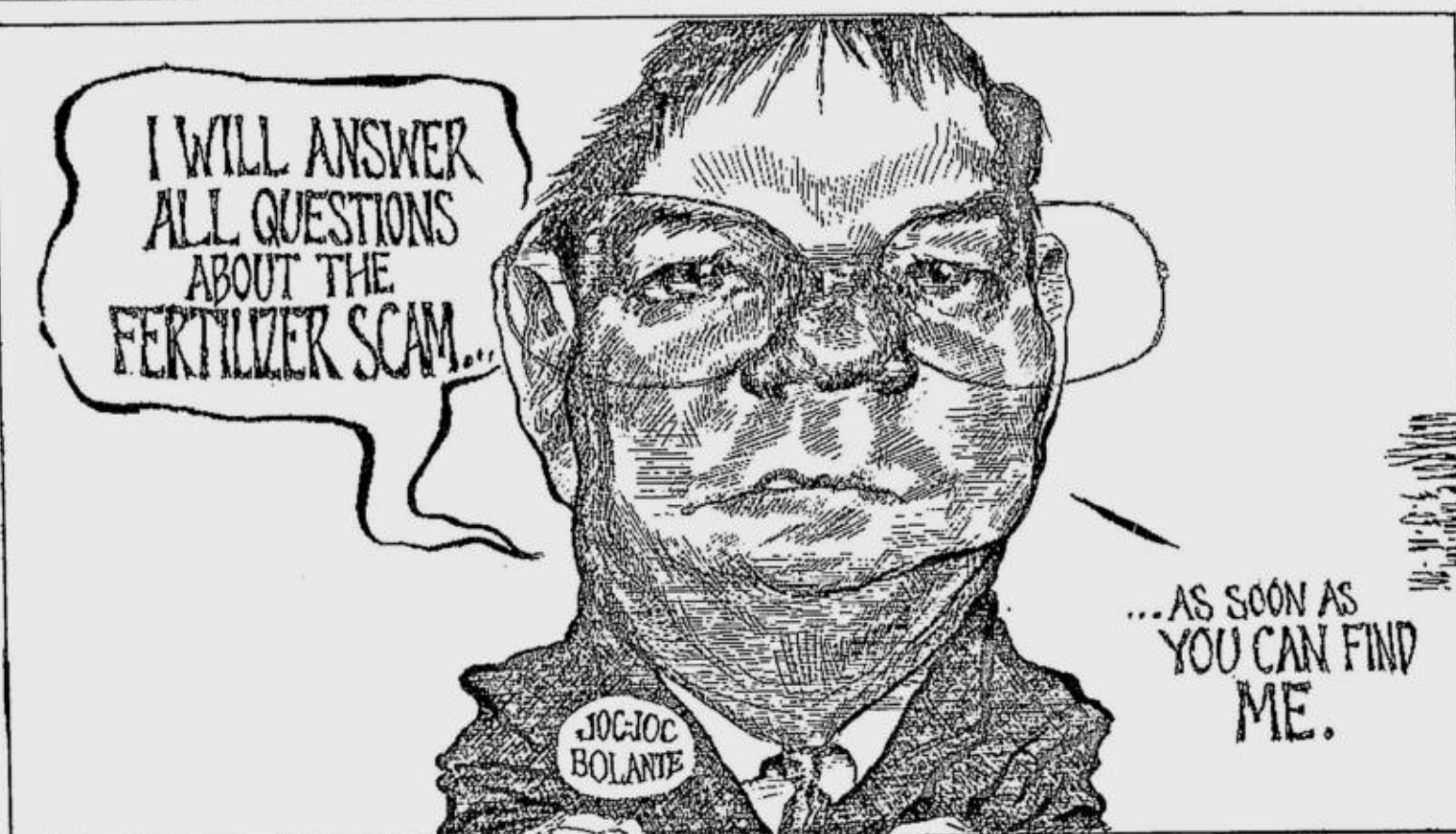
After its initial set of guidelines, issued in July last year shortly after the question of legitimacy began to hang over the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the Philippine province of the Jesuits has issued another one. It is being widely discussed in Catholic, non-Catholic and even irreligious and thus profoundly secular circles. The immediate cause of concern to the Jesuits is Presidential Proclamation 1017, the circumstances surrounding its issuance, and the behavior of officials tasked with implementing both the proclamation and General Order No. 5. In no uncertain terms, military intervention to topple the government is condemned as dangerous and immoral. But equally forcefully, the government's reaction is roundly criticized by the guidelines. If the country must shudder at the specter of military adventurism egged on by civilian provocateurs, it must also recognize government's culpability in this emerging state of affairs, the Jesuits said.

Point 4 of the guidelines says, "The present administration's actions to frustrate legitimate constitutional means of reform and accountability must be held largely responsible for the present crisis. Government's constant attempts to evade accountability and true reform have made the military solution seem attractive and inevitable to some." It goes on to enumerate what sober and sensible people have recognized all along as the only effective antidotes to further strife and uncertainty: "Thus, it is necessary that the following be addressed with greater urgency: the search for truth on the many controversies of the recent past; the revamp of Comelec and other necessary electoral reforms; reforms in the military; and the continuing search for solutions to the problems of poverty and inequality that beset most of our people."

However, paralysis by over-analysis is not a Jesuit trait, and so they suggest concrete steps to be taken. These range from the uncontroversial and pious ("Gatherings of prayer for peace and a non-violent resolution of the crisis") to the practical and not illegal ("Gatherings to exchange reliable information, and to discern collectively in the light of emerging developments") to the confrontational and even rebellious ("Expressions and actions of protest against the curtailments of democratic freedoms in Proclamation No. 1017").

There must surely be a risk that a government that has forbidden protests in general will find it tempting to include protests against the implementation of a state of national emergency in the list of forbidden acts. After all, to loosely borrow a concept from Ayn Rand, the banality of evil includes a fetish for list-making. And lists of every nature do exist, as Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor let slip, when he tried to soothe Randy David by saying he wasn't on the government's list.

When the prudent and cautious decide on a confrontational cause of action, government surely must take pause to determine if the cure isn't worse than what it considers to be a disease.



PET recount shows 'widespread cheating'

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA IS AN EXPERT AT having himself elected as leader in the House of Representatives, but he is not acting like a true leader to the congressmen under him. When policemen arrived to arrest five party-list representatives, the Speaker, instead of putting his foot down and telling them the Constitution prohibits any member of Congress from being arrested while Congress is in session, negotiated with the cops for the lawmakers be put in his custody temporarily, after which they would be surrendered to the police.

That made many congressmen very angry. "He should not have negotiated with the police," Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. angrily said during the session. "He should have told them: 'No, you cannot arrest them!'"

The Constitution is very clear: No member of Congress charged with an offense whose penalty does not exceed six years can be arrested while Congress is in session. Congress is in session, 'di ba?

The lawmakers are not asking for any special treatment, only what the law mandates. Like any ordinary citizen, they don't want to be arrested unless there is a warrant of arrest. And no arrest warrant can be issued unless a preliminary investigation has been conducted. And no such thing has yet been done.

The law is clearly on the side of the five congressmen and the House, so why is its Speaker being so namby-pamby? I know: he is afraid his actions might anger President Macapagal-Arroyo and she may renege on her promise to support Charter change, without which JDV's ambition to be prime minister will not be realized.

But if JDV will behave the way he is behaving now when he becomes PM, who will vote for him? If he wants to be the leader, said a congressman, he should act like one.

A staff member of the Speaker, by the way, wrote a letter to the editor to comment on a recent column exposing the bogus awards given by JDV to visiting heads of state and other foreign dignitaries. The award, called the "Congressional Medal of Achievement,"

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



has been awarded to the presidents of China, Pakistan and India as well as other dignitaries. But there is no record of it having been created by Congress, said former Sen. Francisco Tatad.

The citation says: "Award is bestowed on behalf of the Filipino nation and in accordance with Resolution No. 453 of the House of Representatives, Congress of the Philippines."

But Resolution 453, Tatad said, was filed by Representatives Crispin Beltran, Rafael Mariano, Teodoro Casiño, Liza Maza, Satur Ocampo and Joel Virador (the same party-list representatives who have either been arrested or whom the police want to arrest) directing the committees on labor and employment and foreign affairs to conduct a joint congressional inquiry on the status of the implementation of the government's ban on deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq. Nothing about a Congressional Medal of Achievement, Tatad said.

In his letter, the Speaker's spokesman said the two versions of Resolution 453 were filed in different years. He also said that the award is given by the House of Representatives alone, and that is why Senate President Franklin Drilon has no signature on it.

Question: Why then is it called "Congressional Medal of Achievement"? It should be called "House Medal of Achievement" or, more accurately, "Speaker's Medal of Achievement," 'di ba? And why does the citation say that it "is bestowed on behalf of the Filipino nation" when it is bestowed only on behalf of JDV?

The same column said JDV also created, on his own, the Philippine-Taiwan Parlia-

mentarians' Friendship Society, with all the members of the House as members. In so doing, Tatad said, JDV officially recognized the government of Taiwan and violated the Philippines' One-China policy and risked getting the ire and a diplomatic protest from mainland China, which has always insisted that there is only one China and Taiwan is a part of it.

The letter from the Speaker's office is deathly quiet on that one.

President Arroyo has said in a speech that the recount in the Presidential Electoral Tribunal shows she won the 2004 elections "fair and square."

False, said opposition vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda at the Kapitan sa Manila last Monday. On the contrary, the ongoing recount shows widespread cheating both in the vice presidential and presidential tallies, she said.

Two of her lawyers, Rufus Rodriguez and Sixto Brillantes, said that when the ballot boxes were opened, the election returns there were found to have been substituted. They do not tally with the copies from the Commission on Elections, Namfrel and the opposition party. Copies from these three tally with one another, but the copies in Congress (which were the ones canvassed by the legislators) don't, although they have the same numbers. (There are seven copies of election returns, one each for the different election bodies, one for Congress, and one each for the major political parties. They should all be the same since they are supposed to be copies of the same ER.)

Furthermore, the ballots seem to have been written by one person. The full names of the candidates, including the middle initials, were written on the ballots. That is not normal, the two lawyers said. Voters usually write only the last names.

What's more, the ballots do not contain the watermark of genuine ballots from the Comelec, they added.

Did GMA and Noli de Castro win fair and square? You be the judge.

'Festina Lente'

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan



people turned away from large causes toward concrete projects at ground level. Their logic ran like this: Ideology is words, social activism is about life. Ideology is theory, social activism is about food, shelter, schools. Ideology is a game of politicians, social activism is about the work of real people.

They have a point, but there is a time to return to first principles.

So where are the Edsa crowds now? Below is a litany of maybe's, just like Edsa I was one humongous "what if" until it happened.

Maybe the youth just don't go to rallies anymore. Perhaps they no longer express their anger and alienation by marching, and would rather speak their truth through blogs or e-groups or text messages. The oldies must stop trying to ape the style of the First Quarter Storm, and accept that for the youth, their public space lies not in Plaza Miranda but in self-selected "virtual" and real communities. (Take photos of rally dispersals and post them on the Internet!) In that case, let their indignation build up electronically, and let them express it bodily in rallies only in few final orgasmic bursts.

Maybe the allure of protest rallies has waned for the middle classes. It is now March, the start of summer, and even radical chic requires copious amounts of sun block. Edsa embodies self-sacrifice, but for the rent-a-crowd, rallies are a money-earner. In that case, let us go for quality, not quantity, less but more authentic gatherings.

Maybe it takes a network of cause-oriented groups to pull off People Power, and those at Edsa I have meanwhile retreated to their cocoons. In that case, let us turn to extant professional

groups (the nation's lawyers, led by Integrated Bar president Joel Cadiz, are set to march today in defiance of Proclamation 1017), academia (UP Diliman has declared itself "state-of-emergency-free," leading a radio host to chuckle, "Aba, parang sugar-free na!"), lay religious volunteers (since social activism is a form of apostolic work), and the nationwide civic organizations (Rotary, Lions, Jaycees).

Let them discuss, not just problems like GMA, but concrete measures to help the poor in the here and now: build-a-home, adopt-a-child, adopt-a-school, adopt-a-whole-wretched-country! Bypass the state, bypass the political parties, bypass anything bureaucratic! The Filipino is innately anarchist, anyway, rugged individualists and petty bourgeois deep down. Remember: Edsa I worked because it wasn't scripted. Had some centralized command tried to organize it, they would have messed it up.

We must find new ways for social action, to express indignation and galvanize people into action. If God sends us another Edsa moment, fine, hallelujah. But remember that the true Edsa moment was the martyrdom of Ninoy Aquino at the tarmac, and while a whole nation may march and shout in protest, the loss and emptiness had to be borne in quiet dignity by his widow Cory in the solitude of her heart. "Pity the nation that is in need of heroes," said Bertolt Brecht in "Galileo Galilei." How can a nation be worthy that passively profits from the widow's pain?

Edsa isolates a few "brief shining moment[s]" and disregards the years of struggle that gave us fortitude. Justice J.B.L. Reyes has said that, for dictators, the "value of the Sword of Damocles is not that it falls but that it hangs." Proclamation 1017 is the ordeal that should steel us for the coming tempest. If the mischief of People Power is that it needs heart-thumping drama, with Proclamation 1017, GMA may yet have delivered to us an Edsa moment on a silver platter.

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Under the gun

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



violence in the country."

Amid mounting clamor from a wide sector, including the business community, the international press and the Philippine press organizations, members of Congress including administration and opposition members, the economic managers in the Cabinet, and civil society organizations, for the lifting of the proclamation, the President said on Wednesday she would do so only if she was "satisfied" that the government had "control of the situation."

We have been given no idea how "control of the situation" is defined. But based on developments after the proclamation, the President now faces a broader sectoral alignment calling for an end to the state of national emergency, and she appears even more uncertain of her control of the Armed Forces, the key strategic institution that now holds the key to her ability to control unrest in the civil sector that has even become more restive than it had been before the proclamation.

Reference to "control of the situation" invites comparison. When Marcos declared martial law, he saw to it that all his flanks were covered. He had prepared for the martial law declaration for more than a year. He had full control of the Armed Forces and the national police when he declared martial law. The chain of command was firmly held together. All potential sources of resistance had been neutralized. Congress was closed. All opposition leaders were either arrested or immobilized. The Supreme Court had been brought under control. The media were completely controlled in one fell swoop. Most newspaper offices, except for one, and the independent TV stations

were shut down. Journalists and editors tagged as regime opponents were rounded up on the very first day of martial rule.

The political and media crackdown was so thorough that Marcos did not face the problem of giving media any guidelines on what they could publish and not publish. There was no Congress in which opposition members could denounce martial law. There was no media in which to protest the clampdown. There was only one source of news: the government spokesperson and information office. All street protests were banned. In that total sweep, everything was clear: either one followed the rules handed down by Marcos or he went to jail. There was no grey area. For the journalists who were not detained, the choices were to join the Marcos propaganda corps, look for other jobs, or go underground. Choices were clear.

With things under control, all that Marcos needed was an incident to justify the martial law proclamation and as a trigger for a meticulously prepared plan for a national emergency. The triggering incident was fabricated: the alleged ambush of then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

When President Arroyo proclaimed PP 1017, hardly anything was in place to put things under control. She was uncertain of full support from the chain of command. Congress has remained opened, most of the significant media networks and newspapers were not shut down. There were so many loose ends. Even if she wanted to tie the loose ends, she did not have the means to do so.

Her rhetoric for the proclamation echoed Marcos' declaration. But since Congress and the entire press have not been shut, there remains centers of mobilization to organize resistance to the regime. This is why it can be argued that the longer the state of emergency stays, the deeper the President will sink into trouble. She will be swallowed by forces that appear to be spinning out of control. Metaphorically speaking, she is sitting on top of bayonets propped up by emergency powers.

Gloria and Indira

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S DECLARATION OF A state of emergency has led people to compare her with Ferdinand Marcos. Certainly, the chilling similarities are there, all the way to the wording of Marcos' Proclamation 1081 finding its way into Ms Arroyo's Proclamation 1017.

But Ms Arroyo's choice of a "state of emergency" actually evokes memories of another woman head of state, a contemporary of Marcos. I am referring to Indira Gandhi, who imposed emergency rule on India for 19 months from 1975 to 1977. That era in history, referred to as the "emergency," is often seen as one of India's darkest, akin to our own martial rule under Marcos.

Privilege

The full names of the two leaders tell us they were both born into privilege. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's father was a president of the Philippines back in the 1960s. Indira Nehru Gandhi came from a prominent Brahmin caste family. Her father was Jawaharlal Nehru, venerated as one of modern India's founders.

Gandhi was initially reluctant to enter politics. Her father was opposed to nepotism so she did not run for public office, helping instead to manage political campaigns for her father and husband, Feroze Gandhi (no relation to Mahatma Gandhi). It was only after the death of her father in 1964 that she ran for office, easily winning a seat in Parliament.

She rose quickly through the ranks, serving in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, earning respect for her skillful handling of conflicts, including tensions between India and Pakistan.

After Shastri's death in 1965, Indira Gandhi became India's third prime minister, and the first woman to head the world's largest democracy. India progressed during the early years of her leadership. Chronic food shortages gave way to agricultural surpluses, with India becoming a major food exporter. Indira Gandhi also pushed India's industrialization and the development of its science and technology.

But Indira Gandhi's own personal life was troubled. Several of her biographies, notably "Indira: The Life of Indira Nehru Gandhi" by Katherine Frank, describe her as lonely and isolated, grappling with her "complex relationship" with her famous father. Her marriage was troubled and she poured much of her affection on her son Sanjay Gandhi, relying on him for political advice.

Indira Gandhi was reelected prime minister in 1971, but her popularity declined rapidly with accusations of corruption, particularly a government contract awarded to her son Sanjay, supposedly to produce what would have been India's first locally manufactured car. The venture failed.

She also drifted toward authoritarianism, using her majority in the Indian Parliament to amend the constitution, reducing the power of state governments while increasing that of the central government.

Electoral fraud

If all that sounds so very similar to Ms Arroyo's own presidency, here's the clincher: Indira Gandhi also faced recurring allegations of perpetrating electoral fraud in 1971. In June 1975, a judge in the High Court of Allahabad found her guilty of hiring a government employee for the election campaign and ruled that this was technically electoral fraud. Indira Gandhi was ordered to vacate her seat in Parliament, which in effect also meant stepping down as prime minister.

Gandhi appealed to the Supreme Court, which ruled that she could continue to sit as a member of Parliament but could not participate in its proceedings.

As the judicial battles unfolded, the public clamor for Gandhi's ouster increased. On June 26, she was able to get a state of emergency declared.

I don't know if Ms Arroyo's hawkish advisers might have drawn inspiration from Indira Gandhi's emergency. Perhaps they noted how, during the emergency, human violations increased dramatically. There were mass arrests and censorship was imposed on newspapers and books. More constitutional amendments followed, giving Gandhi even more powers.

Despite the controversies around emergency rule, India actually prospered economically. There was industrial peace since strikes were banned. Revenues increased as the government began to enforce tax collections more forcefully. One can imagine the robust headline statistics during India's emergency, similar to what we've been seeing in the Philippines the past few months.

In 1977, confident that she had regained the support of the Indian people, Gandhi called for elections. She was defeated, unable to win even a seat in Parliament.

The government that succeeded Gandhi was inept, and eventually Indira Gandhi returned to power, but her life was marred by one tragedy after another. Her favorite son, Sanjay, died in a plane crash in 1980. Indira Gandhi herself was brutally assassinated in 1984 by two of her own Sikh bodyguards.

Remembering CPR

The controversies around Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo are similar to those that plagued Indira Gandhi's leadership. The issue isn't just the state of emergency but of legitimacy, of accountability and of governance.

Both Ms Arroyo and Indira Gandhi chose to skirt those issues by clamping down on dissent. In the case of the Philippines, what we saw the last few days was really a continuation of her policy of Calibrated Preemptive Response or CPR launched last September. We saw a "no permit, no rally" policy, the forceful dispersal of prayer rallies, the increase in assassinations of leftist leaders. After the state of emergency was declared, we saw her ordering the arrest of members of Congress and the raiding of a newspaper office. The state of emergency was probably deliberately vague, open to almost perverse reinterpretations of the law, as we saw in the arrest of Rep. Crispin Beltran using a warrant issued back in 1985, during the Marcos regime.

The danger is that Indira Gandhi's experience might inspire Ms Arroyo and her advisers to continue pursuing this CPR policy, and this CPR might deteriorate into a series of chronic preemptive responses, with or without a state of emergency.

There's something about Indira Gandhi that has made historians kind in their recollections of her rule. There are flashes of brilliance in some of the things she said, even as she shuttled between the role of a firm autocrat ("You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist") and that of a gentler, nurturing leader ("Anger is never without an argument, but seldom with a good one" or "The power to question is the basis of all human progress").

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has so far chosen to rule by projecting the image of a no-nonsense technocrat, an economist with a Ph.D. from the University of the Philippines ruthlessly bent on getting things done. If she could pick up more from Indira Gandhi than emergency rule, historians might eventually be kinder to her as well.

Women's rights and human rights

"CEDAW NG BAYAN: KARAPATAN NG KABABAIHAN!" is the theme chosen for this year's observance of Women's Month, which kicked off last Wednesday with a lively program at the Amoran Stadium, hosted by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) and the Quezon City government under the auspices of Mayor Sonny Belmonte.

CEDAW is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, described as an international "bill of rights" for women which all governments around the world that have signed and ratified have committed to implement.

The focus on CEDAW stems from the fact that this year marks the 25th anniversary of the ratification of the Convention, as well as the fact that the current president of the CEDAW Committee is a Filipino, former Ambassador and DFA Undersecretary Rosario "Nena" Manalo.

Wednesday's observance, though, gained added meaning in the light of recent events, especially the issuance of Proclamation 1017.

IN THE PRESS conference convened at the end of the ceremonies, speakers, including NCRFW Chair Myrna Yao, Commission on Human Rights Chair Purificacion Quisumbing, and former NCRFW Chair and CEDAW expert Aurora Javate de Dios, explored the link between women's rights and human rights in general.

De Dios reminded the public about the struggles that "our foremothers" waged to win for today's women their basic rights, while declaring that "women cannot begin to enjoy those rights unless they are empowered to be free from poverty, violence and all forms of discrimination and oppression." She also noted that "there is continuing political instability aggravated by political divisiveness in our society which Proclamation 1017 seems to have exacerbated."

Quisumbing highlighted women's roles as "peacemakers and peacekeepers" in the context of today's political crisis, while calling attention to the threats against the enjoyment of such basic rights as freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of speech and freedom of be-

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



lief and conscience.

I was invited to read a statement at the same press conference as a representative of women's NGOs. My statement bore the title, "Protest and Mourning: Women's Rights in the Context of Human Rights." It follows in full:

TODAY marks the first day of Women's Month, which we celebrate yearly not only because International Women's Day falls on March 8, but also because the women's movement in the Philippines, over the last few decades, has become so huge, so dynamic and so involved in a number of national issues that one day no longer suffices to celebrate women and highlight women's role in building our society.

But still it might be useful to remember the roots of International Women's Day, which began as both a protest and a way of grieving. After more than a hundred young immigrant women perished in the Triangle Shirt Factory fire in New York, the families and friends of the young women, as well as members of the emerging labor movement, launched a massive march through New York's garment district to mourn their needless deaths as well as to demand better working conditions in the city's sweatshops.

That event is today remembered and commemorated as International Women's Day, though in the Philippines, women are celebrated for the entire month of March.

Still, let us not forget the historical roots of our celebration: the needless and terrible deaths of women, and the protest their deaths spurred and the movement for reform and women's rights and equality that it gave birth to.

TODAY, we remember women whose deaths in

Right of sanctuary

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



ed that they would have driven him mad if he was not, until he saw fit to cease his obstinacy in regard to the slave woman—although he refused to receive the money which he was ordered to take from the said house, and immediately determined on a rash plan."

Reading this makes me wonder what kind of a slave this anonymous, unnamed, but extremely desirable girl was to have driven the artilleryman mad with love or lust. What was so special about this slave that the governor-general himself had to intervene to force the sale?

Obviously, there is something to be read between the lines that is not encouraged in history class. Then something awful happened:

"On the eighth of August [1635], which was Sunday, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the governor was going to the residence of the Society [of Jesus], to see the comedy which the [Jesuit] fathers there were presenting; and with him was riding Doña Maria de Franzia, the wife of his nephew the sargento-mayor, in a coach, having the slave woman behind. When they arrived at the corner of the Augustinian church, the artilleryman came out to meet them; and, seizing the slave woman by the arm, struck her with a dagger so that she died straightway, and he retired again into the said convent of St. Augustine.

"The news was conveyed to the governor, who had already gone into the Society's house; and he sent an adjutant and a captain of his guard, together with the sargento-mayor, and some soldiers, with an order to surround the church and bring

out the guilty man, and take him to the headquarters of the guard. This was done accordingly; but as the religious had hidden him, the soldiers were unable to find him. The convent was left surrounded by soldiers, who remained there for two days, so that if the artilleryman came out they could get him and bring him back; likewise the soldiers were ordered not to allow any religious to enter or leave, or any food to be brought to them, under penalty of death—on which account the religious found themselves in very hard straits."

To cut a long story short, the soldiers were withdrawn after three days and a reward was offered to anyone who could provide information leading to the arrest of the artilleryman. The reward also advanced the civil position or military rank of those who successfully executed the arrest order.

On Aug. 27, 1635, a man described in the narrative as a "negro" working in the San Agustín convent told the authorities which cell the artilleryman was hiding in. They barged into the convent and were able to take the artilleryman despite token resistance offered by the friars. He was brought to confession the next day and sentenced to death.

Archbishop Guerrero then made a formal demand for the prisoner to be returned and placed under his custody, but the governor-general ignored his repeated pleas on the grounds that such a blatant and heinous crime was not covered by the right of sanctuary and could not go unpunished. To spite the archbishop, gallows were put up in front of San Agustín, the artilleryman was executed and his corpse dumped on the doors of the convent where it lay for two days.

This was the beginning of an even more fascinating story regarding the right of sanctuary.

(To be concluded next Wednesday)

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Following in the footsteps of Marcos

FROM ALL INDICATIONS, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's state of emergency declaration is a prelude to martial law—the warrantless arrests, the closure of The Daily Tribune and the threat to close down media outfits, the arrest of opposition members. I can see that Ms Arroyo is following in the footsteps of former President Marcos. Let's go back to history.

In 1971, Marcos called for a Constitutional Convention for the purpose of revis-

ing the 1935 Constitution. The convention was composed of 321 elected delegates, at first headed by former President Carlos P. Garcia, then (after Garcia's death) by President Diosdado Macapagal.

However, the convention's image was tarnished by scandals which included the bribing of some delegates into "voting" against a proposal to prohibit Marcos from staying in power under a new constitution. Marcos' second term was

marked by increasing civil strife known as the "First Quarter Storm."

After a series of bombings in Manila claimed to have been carried out by the New People's Army/Communist Party of the Philippines, Marcos warned of an imminent communist takeover. On Sept. 21, 1972, he issued Proclamation No. 1081 declaring martial law. Thus, he was able to stay in power way beyond the term allowed by the 1935 Constitu-

tion. And thus, he assumed dictatorial control over an entire nation. He called his dictatorship "constitutional authoritarianism."

Defending his right to rule by decree, he scared the public: "You will have communists going back and forth, causing the dastardly ruin of our country, the killing of people and the rape of women."

—CLEM BACANI,
cgbacani@gmail.com



Wide spectrum

(The first readers' reactions to Proclamation 1017 paint as wide a spectrum as the one provoked by the Garci tapes.)

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO SHOULD BE allowed to govern the country until she finishes her term. Every time the minority protests on the streets, it hurts our economy badly [and sends] wrong signals to local and foreign investors. I view it as moving backward, not forward. Legitimacy does not always result in better lives for the people, good economy and governance. Not everyone will always be pleased by whoever sits in the presidency. Corazon Aquino was hounded by several coups which rendered her ineffective. Fidel Ramos had his bad eggs, too.

As a Filipino who loves my country (but not the politicians who rule it), I will keep sending precious dollars to help the economy. Little it may be, but I know it is good for the struggling nation.

The legislators, government leaders and politicians chanting that Filipinos overseas are the modern-day heroes of the country should be one in helping to protect our interest—like our contribution to the OWWA—and to make sure our needs are met. Let not what happened to the farmers who contributed to the coconut levy happen to it.—Oscar Bayana, orbayana@comcast.net

VOICES ON
INQ7.NET

In my office, they're talking about this shameful President from Southeast Asia who, with all these deaths [in] the PhilSports stampede and the mudslide in Leyte, still had the audacity to declare a state of emergency (read: martial law).

She betrayed the spirit of the People Power in Edsa. She betrayed the Filipino people. She betrayed God who has given her the privilege to lead her people. We are worried back here.—Lou Fallesgon, loufallesgon@yahoo.com

When you have a Marine commandant so swiftly relieved of his position and his duties, in the light of the declaration of a state of emergency, subsequent arrests, closure of The Daily Tribune, witch hunts, finger-pointing and fears of martial law—people are bound to ask questions and demand straightforward answers.

The people concerned should have seen this coming—one would be stupid to not have foreseen this scenario. I dare say they brought it upon themselves. No one bothered to give honest straightforward answers which would have quickly defused the growing unrest. Instead, people were left to their own devices to come up with plausible, wild or wilder theories behind the record-breaking relief of the general.

Come to think of it, in the past months, we have all been given the runaround, with no good information, and left in the dark about what's happening to our government and our country.

We don't deserve this. We deserve at the very least a truthful and honest answer. Or maybe the government is looking for a stand-off on a larger scale—something reminiscent of Edsa I perhaps?—Clarissa Therese Soco, cjsoco@gmail.com

GMA is the best...1017 times over. She's outdoing all the corrupt tactics of past infamous politicians combined. We recall her moves from Day One, when she promised not to run as president, saying she herself was the source of our nation's division and then claimed "divine intervention" made her run anyway.

Our democracy may be imperfect, but that's no reason to replace it with authoritarian rule, especially if the imperfection lies in one whose legitimacy remains in question.

We'd be fools to think we'll be a "stronger" nation from hereon.—Dennis Torrecampo, dentorrecampo@yahoo.com

I took offense when the bishops had their photo taken [with a] banner behind identifying them as the silent majority. How can they claim to be part of the silent majority when they had the air time to be heard?

I also took offense at the comment of a senator in front of Fort Bonifacio, calling those who won't come out to be with them "apathetic." It's high time such politicians realized that people in the silent majority are not apathetic. On the contrary, [they] know very well what drives politicians; rather than rock the boat with a not [too] acceptable alternative [they] would rather stay put and go on with their lives.

I also disagree with those who want the ouster of GMA, claiming to be the silent majority. Such a claim remains to be validated nationwide.—Angie Diaz, dag_wood68@yahoo.com



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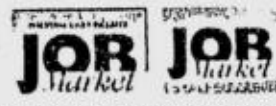
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The AIM learning experience integrates private sector management principles, with government and international development. Its graduate programs are embedded with business management and development management theories, cases, organizational and multicultural exposure as well as actual consultations with the private and public sectors.

Asian Business Expertise

AIM continues to shape the region through its contribution to the advancement of Asian Management Systems proving once again that AIM is the business school that knows Asia best.

International Exposure to Different Markets

AIM students are given an opportunity to study and visit various Asian economies, thus giving them the necessary international exposure.



Quality Quality is ensured in the AIM programs by practitioner-oriented faculty, world-class learning methodologies, and a state-of-the-art learning environment.

Quality is embedded within our programs through the pursuit of excellence in management disciplines and relevance to the unique challenges of Asian markets. Throughout our 38-year history, our programs have passed the keen scrutiny of major international accrediting institutions.

Rigor AIM is for people who pursue excellence and are determined to succeed. The AIM experience instills focus and discipline. It entails a demanding learning process, that involves long hours inside and outside the case rooms.

It also infuses accountability by fostering among students the discipline to learn the appropriate management concepts and competencies, and their relevant application. Students develop proficiency by repeatedly applying these skills in varying management situations through case studies, projects, research, and management internships.

Practitioner-orientation AIM programs are designed for practicing management in the real world. Combined with practitioner knowledge and experience from the faculty, these learning processes in turn demand rigor in thinking and action, together with an integrative and generalist manager viewpoint.

Management situations, borne from actual contemporary occurrences in the business world, provide real business learning and are depicted in case studies used throughout all AIM programs.

Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives



The AIM Alumni Leadership. Live It.

Since 1968, AIM has proven its leadership by consistently developing leaders and managers in Asia who are in key positions in top corporations in Asia and in the rest of the world. As socially responsible leaders and managers, the AIM alumni have a key role in ensuring the growth not only of their respective organizations but also the societies to which they belong.

Board of Trustees: Three New Faces from the Alumni

The Board of Trustees took strategic steps by appointing prominent AIM alumni to the Board of Trustees. In 2005 three influential and prominent AIM alumni, **Francis Estrada** (MBA 1973), Founder, President and CEO of Odyssey Capital Ventures; **Napoleon Nazareno** (MBA 1973) President and CEO of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and Smart Communications; and **Tony Tan Caktiong** (TMP 1983), Chairman, President and CEO of Jollibee and 2004 World Entrepreneur of the Year Awardee, joined the Board of Trustees. This further highlights the strategic importance the alumni have in heightening the institute's multi-stakeholder involvement.



Eminent Chinese Leaders Join The AIM Board of Governors

Mr. Long Yongtu is the secretary general of the Boao Forum for Asia, an international organization that aims to promote economic exchanges within the region and the world. In China, he was appointed Vice Minister, the first Chief Representative for Trade negotiations of MOFTEC, and the Chief Negotiator for China's accession to the World Trade Organization.

Mr. Victor LL. Chu is the founder and chairman of several regional companies, foremost of which is the First Eastern Investment Group, an investment firm involved in the management of direct investments in China and the ASEAN. He is a council member of the World Economic Forum and chairman of the Paris-based ICC Commission on Financial Services and Insurance. He has also served as director and council member of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

International Faculty

AIM strives to ensure an international composition of its faculty who are renowned practitioners and experts of Asian Management Systems. In this regard, we have recently invited several former officials of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) who have now joined the AIM faculty.

Dr. Yoshihiro Iwasaki - He was the director general of ADB's South Asia Department and concurrently head of its Regional Economic Monitoring Unit. Prof. Iwasaki holds a BA and MA in Economics from Keio University in Japan and a PhD in Economics from Stanford University, USA.

Dr. Khaja Moinuddin - Formerly the director-general of ADB's Southeast Asia Regional Department and was responsible for the Bank's operations in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore. Prof. Moinuddin completed his MA in Economics at the University of Madras in India and his PhD in Macroeconomics at the University of Hawaii, USA.

Dr. Brahm Prakash - He was the director of the Poverty Reduction and Social Development Division of ADB's Regional and Sustainable Development Department. He took his master's degree in Commerce and in Economics (first in order of merit) at the Agra University, New Delhi. As a Canadian Commonwealth Scholar, he obtained his MA in Economics and doctorate from the University of Toronto.

International Students

Our students come not only from Asia but also from across the globe. Our full time and part-time students come from 22 different countries.

Over 30,000 alumni represent 37 different nationalities many of whom have become key movers in their industries. This international mix further reinforces AIM's experience of combining international exposure to different markets with expertise in Asian business.

Messages

WASHINGTON SYCIP

CO-CHAIRMAN

AIM FIRST & FOREMOST

The AIM credo is built on three fundamental themes: Leadership, Excellence and Commitment. Our Institute has granted business and management degrees to thousands of dynamic men and women who, by their individual efforts, have helped transform Asian economies. We have helped mold these leaders by attracting an international faculty of educators, gifted with exceptional academic credentials and real world experience as captains of industry and government. And for thirty-eight years, we have held fast to our mission to contribute to the growth of Asian societies by inspiring our graduate students to apply their AIM education for the benefit of their home countries.

To have staying power in today's global market, however, an extra ingredient is needed - Relevance. The standards of academic excellence will constantly be raised with every new technology and learning system. I am pleased to note that AIM has remained firm and committed through the past three decades. We continuously re-engineer our programs to meet the demands of the times. Our Institute remains as vital and relevant to the graduate students we serve as when we first started.

My gratitude and appreciation to our Board of Trustees and Board of Governors, Alumni, Faculty, Students and Staff for a job well done.

JOSE L. CUISIA, JR.

CO-CHAIRMAN

A YEAR OF TRANSITION TOWARDS A TRANSFORMED FUTURE

School year 2004-2005 was a period of significant change for the Asian Institute of Management. With the intensification of an increasingly globalized and competitive graduate business school environment, it was critical for the institute to re-examine its competitive strategy and its internal management systems.

The Institute took bold steps towards meeting the challenges of the current graduate business school market. Strategic changes in the organization and management of the Asian Institute of Management were undertaken and have become integral at laying the foundation for a new competitive strategy and a proper institutional governance engine.

With leadership foremost in our minds, the AIM strategy paper was born. Entitled "AIM 2011: Regaining Leadership in a More Competitive Environment," the paper outlines the steps we will undertake towards renewed market leadership. This strategy will keep AIM, the first and foremost business school in Asia by outlining the important strategic components to deliver our value proposition of academic excellence, wide-range adaptability, and learning by doing.

I like to think that the vibrant Asian economies that we have today were helped in small and large measures by the thousands of graduate students who have since walked the halls of our campus, engaged their peers in lively debates and went to work in business and government with a heightened sense of purpose.

At AIM, we will continue to instill in our graduates the competitive edge that will set them apart in the real world. Congratulations to all for bringing AIM to a transformed future.

ROBERTO F. DE OCAMPO

PRESIDENT

2004-2005: A YEAR OF HISTORIC CHANGE FOR AIM

Over the last couple of years, AIM has been transforming itself, as the Institute has done periodically throughout its 38-year history. I have been privileged to spearhead the efforts to revitalize our organization to effectively meet the challenges of the globalized and highly competitive graduate business school market. We have executed changes to enforce AIM's ability to live up to its reputation as the foremost business and management graduate school in Asia - now and well into the future.

The changes are already evident and working. We have focused all academic functions and academic-related matters to the Dean; created two new positions, namely that of Vice President to handle administrative concerns and that of Director for International Relations to address the rising trend of globalization and internationalization in graduate business education; upgraded AIM's facilities and IT systems; and changed the working paradigm of the AIM Conference Center to enhance its capabilities and appeal.

More importantly, we have steered AIM towards greater multi-stakeholder involvement. Our Board, Faculty, Alumni, Students, and Staff all have a stake in shaping the future of the Institute. This multi-stakeholder approach in AIM's decision-making process has effectively increased the role and commitment of our various stakeholders.

I joined AIM at the beginning of the new millennium, and have observed the speed of changes that have made today a vastly different world. For AIM to stay at the vanguard of changing technologies, we have developed a strategic five-year plan called AIM 2011. This strategy affirms AIM's value proposition as a school of choice for a unique graduate management experience that combines private and public sector decision-making exposure. This is essential not only to a globalized environment, but to the specific demands of doing business in Asia. It is a roadmap for AIM to enter the future as the continuing leader and authority in Asian business and management graduate education.

Thirty-eight years, and counting. AIM leads by doing!

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MARCH IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH



"Pamayanan Sama-Sama Laban sa Sunog"

Every year, hundreds of Filipinos die in home fires. Thousands more suffer injuries of varying degrees, plus the loss of property and valuables. If a fire occurs in your home, your chances of survival will depend on how you protect yourself and how quickly and safely you are able to get out. But more importantly, tips on how to prevent and contain fires occurring in our homes should be stressed.

OBSERVE AND FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE TIPS TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR HOME SAFE!

Consider the different models and capacities of Anos Firetrucks



Kia 300 gals

1) Put phone numbers of fire department and other emergency numbers near your phone.

2) Eliminate fire hazards through good housekeeping. Dispose of waste paper, rubbish, and other flammable materials regularly.

3) Keep matches out of children's reach.

4) Oil or gas lamps and candles should be placed away from curtains. Do not put them where the



NKR 400 gals

wind, children or pets may topple them. Put out flame before going to bed.

5) Do not keep flammable materials like gasoline, alcohol, and paint inside the house.

6) Regularly check your electrical installations, and have all worn-out wirings and electrical fixtures changed or repaired by a licensed electrician.

7) Do not overload electrical circuits by putting additional lights and appliances.

8) Blown fuses should not be replaced with coins, wires, or any metal.

9) Never leave a lit cigarette/cigar/pipe unattended. DO NOT SMOKE IN BED!

10) Always keep a First Aid kit handy.

11) Establish escape routes.

12) Use smoke detectors in your kitchen and hallways to alert you in case of fire, especially at night when you are asleep.

13) Keep a fire extinguisher in your home and learn how to use it.



NQR 1,000 gals



ROGELIO F. ASIGNADO, CESO IV
Director (DSC) BFP
Chief, BFP

ng trahedya sa Leyte. Kaya't kaakibat ng aming panawagang ito ay ang paalala sa lahat na kailangan din ng aming mga rescue, emergency, at medical personnel ng inyong pakikisa't pakikipagtulongan.

Bawat oras ay may katumbas na buhay. Bawat buhay ay mahalaga. Ugaliin po nating maging handa sa anumang oras at bukas sa pakikipag-ugnayan at pakikipagtulongan upang maiwasan ang trahedyang dulot ng sunog at mga kalamidad.

Immediate response to a fire is very critical. The 600-gallon Anos Firetruck proved to be very effective as a first responder fire apparatus. With the road conditions & traffic situation in Metro Manila, the Anos Firetruck can easily maneuver & can penetrate through narrow streets thus ensuring quick access to the fire scene.

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MARTIN T. AGUDA JR.
Fire Chief, ABS-CBN Fire Brigade
Anchor / Safety & Emergency Preparedness Advocate
DZMM RED (Response in Emergencies & Disasters)
Alert, DZMM Radyo Patrol 630khz.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FIRE:

- (1) Be calm and don't panic.
- (2) Call 117.
- (3) Yell and make noise to draw attention so your neighbors will be aware of the fire.
- (4) Smoke inhalation is the number one cause of death in a fire.

Bagamat tumaas ang bilang ng mga naitalang sunog para sa nagdaang taon, kapansin-pansin naman ang pagbaba ng bilang ng mga tao at ari-ariang napinsala nito. Maging ang dami ng sunog tuwing tag-init at Bagong Taon ay bumaba rin. Magkagayon man, walang humpay naming pinaigting pa ang antas ng aming kakayahan, di lamang sa aspeto ng kagamitan o kaalaman, kundi maging sa pakikipag-ugnayan sa iba't ibang agencia ng pamahalaan at sector ng ating pamayanan.

Kaya naman, lalo't higit tuwingang papasok ang Fire Prevention Month, paulit-ulit kaming nanawagan sa inyong lahat na panatilihin ang inyong kamalayan at pakikisa sa ating mga kasamahang bumbero, maging sa mga fire volunteers na walang sawang tumutulong sa pagtupad ng aming misyon.

Taun-taon, ang ating bayan ay nahaharap sa iba pang uri ng kalamidad maliban sa sunog, likas man o gawang-tao, gaya na lang

ang trahedya sa Leyte. Kaya't kaakibat ng aming panawagang ito ay ang paalala sa lahat na kailangan din ng aming mga rescue, emergency, at medical personnel ng inyong pakikisa't pakikipagtulongan.

Bawat oras ay may katumbas na buhay. Bawat buhay ay mahalaga. Ugaliin po nating maging handa sa anumang oras at bukas sa pakikipag-ugnayan at pakikipagtulongan upang maiwasan ang trahedyang dulot ng sunog at mga kalamidad.



FSR 1,000-1,500 gals

If you think you cannot extinguish the flames, evacuate the premises immediately.

(5) Avoid inhaling the smoke. If possible, wet any available cloth, towel, or handkerchief and cover your mouth.

(6) Do not worry about your appearance or your personal possessions or valuables. Evacuate quickly and do not attempt to return.



FTR 1,500-2,000 gals

(7) Stay back as far as possible from the flames and let the professional firemen do their job.



SUPERTANKER 3,000 gals

FIRE PREVENTION MONTH March 2006 PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES OPR-BFP NHQ

- MARCH 5/12, 2006 Sponsoring Sunday TV Mass on Major TV Networks with BFP, Choir and other Talents Exposure of BFP Band (Firefly) on TV Programs
- MARCH 8, 2006 On-the-Spot Drawing Contest
Essay Writing Contest
- MARCH 16-20, 2006 Kiddie/Junior Fire Marshal First Aid Training and Medical Olympics Book on "How To Prevent Fire" display at Competition Sites
- MARCH 31, 2006 Culminating Program / Awarding Ceremony

OPR-ALL BFP REGIONAL UNITS

- MARCH 2-5, 2006 Barangay Ugnayan and visibility image building campaign constitutes the ff:
Distribution of Information materials
Lecture on Fire Prevention
Inspection on all establishments
Familiarization of their respective AOR
Testing of all fire hydrants
Fire Disaster control and emergency evacuation plan (fire drill) to be done twice a year
Monitoring of hazard in backyard economic activities (small cottage industries and incineration of waste materials)
Industrial/Commercial Drift Campaign
Organization of fire disaster control brigade
Lectures on functions, assignments of each fire disaster control brigade
All station must be available on all interviews on radio, TV emphasizing the role of fire service in the community
- MARCH 11, 2006 Industrial Commercial Fire Brigade Competition (in coordination with SOFI)
National High Rise Fire Brigade Competition (in coordination with SOFI)
- MARCH 18, 2006 15th NCR Barangay Brigade Competition to be participated by Barangay Volunteer Fire Brigades (in coordination with SOFI)
Ms. National Industrial/Barangay Fire Safety 2006
Photo Exhibit at SM Megamall/ SM North EDSA / SM Baguio
- MARCH 26, 2006 BFP NCR Fire Olympics to be participated by representatives from FD I-IV
Fire Hose Relay
Rescue Operation
Tug-of-War
Roof Climbing
Engine Relay
Turret Target
Blitz Attack
- MARCH 31, 2006 Culminating Ceremonies



Alfredo Moreno Anos, Sr.

The late internationally acclaimed Filipino inventor Alfredo Moreno Anos, Sr. invented Anos Firetruck in 1994. Introduced to serve the Filipinos and save lives, Anos Firetrucks have been tagged and proven to be at par with the best fire fighting equipment in the world and is among the cheapest in cost and maintenance. Today, Anos Firetrucks are synonymous with fire control as more and more of its units are plying the streets all over the country.

Anos Firetrucks are available in different models to suit different demands and

situations. Ranging from the 300-gallon water tank "Penetrator" model up to the 3,000-gallon "Supertanker," it has models that can penetrate the narrow streets of our barangays or the wider roads of our cities-- from lower grounds to the tallest buildings of the metropolis.

Anos Firetrucks are powered by Anos Fire Pump with a discharge capacity of 500 gallons per minute and can spray from the nozzle tip up to 150 feet at 150 PSI with dynamic brass impeller coupled to 22-25 HP gasoline engine, electric start and air cooled.



At Par with the World's Best

- ✓ Proven to be the World's best fire fighting equipment and is among the cheapest in cost and maintenance.
- ✓ It has models that can penetrate from narrow streets to the wider roads of the cities.
- ✓ Recipient of the following awards:



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Bishop says he's ready to be arrested

By Yolanda Sotelo Fuentes,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Christian Esguerra
in Manila

DAGUPAN CITY—LINGAYEN-DAGUPAN ARCH-bishop Oscar Cruz said he and three other Catholic bishops are in the government's "order of battle" and face arrest under President Macapagal-Arroyo's Proclamation No. 1017.

Cruz, in a telephone interview on Wednesday, said he received this information from a source whom he did not identify. He described the source as someone who is "close to Malacañang."

He also declined to name the three other bishops but said they are from Luzon and, like him, are known critics of the Arroyo administration.

Cruz, quoting his source, said the bishops would be charged with plotting to overthrow the administration.

He said he learned about the plan to arrest him on Monday and decided to inform reporters about it on the advice of his friends.

But he said he did not feel he was in danger nor was he afraid to be arrested.

"I have long been afraid," the bishop said in jest.

Cruz, who presented witnesses to last year's Senate investigation of the alleged link of members of Ms Arroyo's family to the illegal numbers game jueteng and election fraud, said he will not elude arrest and will willingly go with policemen.

In a separate statement, Cruz said it was a "big pity" that the administration "appears to be overrating my little self, together with the three other bishops."

"[They're] giving me an honor [that] I do not, in any way, deserve. To arrest, jail and penalize me for sedition, treason or rebellion could be worthy entry in the Guinness Book of World Records," he said.

"Arrest me? Please, I do not deserve it—yet," he said.

Cruz said the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines had said that there should be a relentless search for truth on the correct results of the 2004 elections. He said the CBCP relayed this position "no less than three times, from July 2005 to January 2006."

"This can only mean that the moral legitimacy of the one holding the presidential office remains in doubt and therefore under question," he said.

He said this could be the reason Malacañang "seems so nervous, so afraid of truth, and appears so rat-



CARDINAL Ricardo Vidal in a huddle with Bishop Oscar Cruz and Archbishop Angel Lagdameo during the Silent Majority Prayer Movement held at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

ted by more and more protest rallies and marches."

But other bishops said they doubt reports the veracity of reports that link some Church leaders to plots to overthrow Ms Arroyo.

"I doubt that. Catholic priests are against any violent measure,"

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, a vocal critic of Ms Arroyo, said yesterday.

Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said there were probably four or five bishops openly advocating the resignation of Ms Arroyo who's accused of stealing the 2004 elections.

But Arguelles said he was convinced none of them were involved in any plot to unseat Ms Arroyo.

"All bishops agreed that we are not supposed to engage in political matters unless moral principles are at stake," he said. "Bishops disagreed with all extra and worse, contra con-

stitutional means of power transfer."

In a Time article written by Bryan Walsh, the plot supposedly included a group of Catholic bishops who would meet military men at the Edsa Shrine where a Marine officer was to read a statement withdrawing support from the government.

"The bishops made one request: That the coup be bloodless," wrote Walsh whose article was based heavily on the reporting of Philippine correspondent Nelly Sindayen.

Besides Iñiguez, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz and Bishops Antonio Tobias of Novaliches and Julio Xavier Labayen, prelate emeritus of Infanta, have been openly criticizing the moral dimensions of Ms Arroyo's governance.

Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas recently added a dissenting voice, criticizing the government for the way it decided to celebrate the 20th anniversary of People Power I.

A key figure in the first bloodless revolt as confidant of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, Villegas accused politicians of "raping" the spirit of Edsa I and ignoring it afterward, much like the way rapists do.

In all the criticisms coming from the Church hierarchy, clergymen, consistent with Catholic teaching, have repeatedly rejected any form of violence as a way of resolving the political standoff.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, CBCP president, earlier sought to calm agitated quarters, asking "civil society to exercise prudence, sobriety, patience and vigilance."

DAR bares P53M in infra in Benguet

FARMING HOUSEholds from Benguet province can now expect lower transportation costs for their farm produce with the launching of a P53.3 million infrastructure project through the support services programs of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

In a press statement, Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Gerundio Madueño said the DAR launched an infrastructure package that includes a farm-to-market road, irrigation and post harvest facilities.

These were constructed under the World Bank-financed Agrarian Reform Development Project Phase 2 (ARCDP-2) to help farmers in the Naguay-Pasdong-Catubog Agrarian Reform Community (NPC-ARC) in Atok, Benguet.

The P19.1 million road connects the barangays of Sowe, Naguay and Pasdong.

The Sowe-Naguay-Pasdong road not only reduces travel time but also lowers the transportation cost of 6,418 residents.

Madueño also led groundbreaking rites for the construction of a storage warehouse worth P820,850.

The warehouse is intended for beneficiaries of the Naguay Multi Purpose Cooperative. It has a storage capacity of 2,500 cavans of rice.

The province is also the recipient of P23.4 million worth of irrigation projects, covering 195 hectares.

Madueño said the DAR will continue to help farmer-beneficiaries gain access to rural infrastructure and support services through the agrarian reform program.

The DAR also distributed Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs).

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RP, US troops focus on war games amid coup

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

FORT MAGSAYSAY, NUEVA ECIJA—In the Philippine Army's biggest camp here, last week's coup plot and the heightening political tension in Metro Manila have not gotten in the way of military life.

On Tuesday, Filipino troops trained side by side with their American counterparts, undistracted by whatever was happening in the country's capital, some 150 km south of here.

"All clear? All good?" an officer from the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division of the US military asked.

"Good!" was the snappy reply of 50 or so members of the Army's 45th Infantry Battalion based in Isabela.

Then, the Scout Rangers and members of special forces took their turns, mastering attack moves for urban terrain warfare.

Beside an old, abandoned hospital, another batch of Filipino soldiers, many of them from the marksmanship training unit, familiarized themselves with weapons not yet available in the inventory of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Focus

This was the first day of the urban terrain military operations training and 2nd Lt. Gerald Dennis Loneza preferred to focus on it.

"We're not affected by the coup [reports]. We're excited with the training. You see, this is the first for our entire battalion," he said.

The battalion, coming from the Army's 5th Infantry Division's Camp Melchor de la Cruz in Gamu, Isabela, has been here since late last week.

"We came purely for the joint exercise," Loneza said, referring to the Balikatan 2006.

On the same day, hundreds more Filipino soldiers took part in Balikatan's mortar offensive action drills, combat lifesaver course and live fire training in Fort Magsaysay.

Other war games went on as planned, according to US Marine Capt. Burrell Parmer.

At the Crow Valley in Capas, Tarlac, Philippine and US Air

Force pilots simulated close air support combat.

At the airport in Clark, Pampanga, the Marines practiced air jumps, while in Ternate, Cavite, sailors were ready to do night diving. Platoons at Sangley Point also in Cavite carried out a salvage project on an old ship.

For the 27-year-old Loneza, this was his first training and he would rather not be distracted.

"The techniques were easy to learn," he said.

Thirst for training

For Cpl. Michael Hugos, of the Fort Magsaysay-based training and doctrine command, the joint war games came few and far between. The last exercise that he joined was a sniper-counter-sniper course in 2000.

He would rather leave the talking about destabilization to higher officials.

"This is what I want to focus on, ma'am," Hugos said.

Life at the main camp has a semblance of normalcy.

At the southern gate, security personnel went on with the usual protocols. Jeeps ferrying civilian employees plied the routes unrestricted.

Brenda Carbonella, who maintains a sari-sari store in the Light Reaction Battalion Compound, said soldiers there went about their normal tasks.

Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, the division's commander, said he has resumed his schedules and started attending meetings outside the camp.

"The situation has relaxed," Palparan said.

This was not the case over the weekend when his troops had to restrain Scout Rangers from leaving their base at Camp Tecson in San Miguel, Bulacan, following a purported plan by their former commander, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, to mobilize them for anti-administration rallies.

Parmer said Balikatan-related training took seven to 10 months to plan, and must go on as planned.

Like in basketball games, the Philippine and US troops have to practice together to respond better to crisis situations and antiriot operations, Parmer said.



MUTATION

A Volkswagen Beetle mutates into a flower bedecked creature during the annual Panagbenga, Baguio City's yearly festival featuring flowers.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Baguio, Cotabato raise funds for Guinsaugon

EFFORTS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR the victims of the landslide that buried the entire village of Guinsaugon in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte have reached as far north as Baguio City and as far south as Cotabato City.

In Baguio City, volunteers are using a dog to raise funds for the landslide victims.

The dog, "Jabbar III," a German shepherd, has so far raised P2,000 in donations at the Baguio Flower Festival's trade fair that was set up on Session Road.

Benjamin "Sonny" San Pedro, its handler, offers to pose Jabbar III alongside donors for a photograph, and roughly 40 people have taken home their keepsakes, said Narciso Padilla, who initiated the project.

The first Jabbar used to stroll along downtown Session Road in the 1980s, and Baguio children almost always stopped to get a glimpse of the "wonder dog."

Padilla said donations have been slow because President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of national



JABBAR III, the German shepherd that became a symbol of a fund raising drive for Guinsaugon landslide victims, poses for pictures with Baguio City visitors.

EV ESPRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

emergency displaced the Southern Leyte tragedy from the front pages of most newspapers.

In Cotabato City, hundreds of students of Central Mindanao's premier university trooped to the streets to raise funds for the land-

slide victims.

Chanting, "let us help our brothers and sisters in Leyte," the students and faculty members of the Church-run Notre Dame University (NDU) went around schools, government and private offices, public markets and bus

terminals asking people to share any amount for the landslide victims.

"We hope to raise huge amount or goods for the victims," Fr. Eduardo Tanudtanud, OMI, university president, said. "We may not be able to raise that much but it would be a big help for our unfortunate kababayans in Leyte."

Students in their uniforms carry boxes and flag down public utility and private vehicles asking passengers to share any amount.

"It's heartening to see people sharing small amounts," Tanudtanud said.

Edilberto Sabilo, a jeepney driver who claimed he was from Leyte, shared part of his day's income, saying he was happy NDU initiated the fund drive.

Susan Silverio, a government employee, skipped snack and shared her P50 bill hoping it would help. "I hope this helps in whatever way," she said. Vincent Cabreja, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE
March 3-4, 2006



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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema	WNCAA (Ranun)	Pasyon de Amor	PBA Little Army	Mr. Bean	Nanito	Amazing Twins	Sentro	PBA TV Patrol World	Gulong Ng Pased	Pa Siting Mo	Princess Lulu	Plooy Big Brother	Big News	American Idol Kung Fu Fight Nights	Real Stories	Insider	
AXN	Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Devil's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends	The Grim Adventures of Billy & Mandy	Tenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Numb3rs (Season 3)	The Gransazzers	Batle B-Daman	Energy Bomb	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazzers
Cinemax		The World of Suzie Wong			Boiling Point (4:40 PM)			Purple Hearts (6:10 PM)				The Assassin			The Real (8:45 PM)				No Secrets
CNN				Business International	World News	World Sport		Larry King Live	Business International			World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unlabeled Bunnies	Mickey Mouse and Friends Motorsport Asia	Uto & Slitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series					Brandy & Mr. Winklers					
ESPN		Pro Billards '04 Wheelchair Billards			World Snooker Tour Grand Prix Finals							Sportscenter Asia	Classic Boxing Jack Johnson: The Best Years		Classic Boxing: Henry Armstrong: The Best Years	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chie N Duke's Rescue Ranger Sportscenter Asia	Wonderful World Of Disney Table Tennis 2003 Kilspring Extreme	Sportscenter Asia
ETC		For Love Or Money 3 Angelenas (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Change of Heart	Elmkale	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Amboxer Maxuover Super Saints	The Tyra Banks Show Life on The Rock Encore		Joan Of Arcadia		American Dreams 2 Daily Mass (5:45 PM)		Entertainment Tonight Angelina (10:15PM)	The Insider Holy Spirit In The Church	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno Father Congo And The Catechism Of Catholic Church	
EWTH		The Word Was Made Flesh		Angel Force	Suffering And The Love Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Stations Of The Cross	EWTH Gallery				Marriage Works in Christ	Defending Life						
Fox News		Hannity & Colson		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren	The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto			Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
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MTV Philippines	MTV Hits				Trippin	Pop Inc		MTV Hits											
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National Geographic	Wild Family Secrets	Explorations Powered By Duracell	Rough Tracks	Amazing Moments	Battle Of The Arctic Giants			Top 5 - Mysterious Universe		Wow!				National Geographic Specials		Explorations Powered By Duracell Auto Focus		Amazing Moments	
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PBO			Nagkaisaan, Nagkaisago Zarate																
QTV	Igo Lang Ang Maraming								Love At Angoon Sea	Imme	Mars								
RPN 9	TV Shopping								The Insider	WWE Smackdown									
SBN 21										Sagipagan	NBA Jam								
Solar Sports		All England 2006 Finals																	
Sports Plus																			
Star Movie		The Hurricane																	
Star World	8 Simple Rules	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel													
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Woman raped for 2 days saved in Caloocan

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A 22-YEAR-OLD CHINESE-FILIPINO woman who was held hostage for two days by four men who allegedly raped her repeatedly and made her take drugs was rescued by policemen in Caloocan City on Tuesday.

Northern Police District Director Chief

Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said city policemen led by SPO1 Enrique Torres arrested two of the suspects—identified as Edgardo Legarda and Eduardo Bautista—in a house on 4th Avenue.

Two other suspects, however, escaped. "A manhunt operation is now being conducted for the others identified only as Nono and Roger," Bataoil said.

PO1 Ma. Theresa Cruz, of the Caloocan city police women's desk, said the police were able to rescue the victim after somebody took pity on her and informed her family about her whereabouts.

The victim told the police that a certain "Barok," who claimed he knew her brother, had offered to help her find a job.

"Barok" introduced the victim to a certain Roger who took her to the Prima Inn along McArthur Highway where he raped her, police said.

From the inn, Roger took her to the house on 4th Avenue where Barok and two other men joined him, the victim narrated.

"In the house, the suspects alter-

nately and repeatedly raped me, at the same time threatening to kill me if I were to escape or report them to the police," the victim said in her affidavit. She was also given drugs by the suspects, she added.

The police had reported that the victim seemed high on drugs when she was rescued.

Family row ends in tragedy

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A WOMAN ALLEGEDLY SHOT to death her 26-year-old American husband on Wednesday inside their two-story house in a posh subdivision in Cainta, Rizal.

But police learned of the alleged crime only yesterday morning after the woman reportedly tried to cover up what happened, police chief Supt. Gilbert Cruz told the INQUIRER.

Not only did the suspect fail to report the incident, she also allegedly ordered her helper to clean up the room where the alleged crime happened, Cruz added.

Greg Rosebeary died after he was shot more than six times. The police have already arrested his wife Catherine, 23. Cruz

said the couple were heard yelling at each other at about 4 p.m. on Wednesday inside the music room of their house in Filinvest Homes, Barangay Sto. Domingo.

"She admitted she confronted her husband because she was jealous," Cruz said, quoting Catherine. At the height of the confrontation, Catherine allegedly took out a 9 mm handgun and shot Greg, hitting him in different parts of the body.

Cruz said Catherine initially thought of escaping, but her helper Helen advised her to bring her husband to the hospital.

Greg, however, died while undergoing treatment. A hospital watchman called the Cainta police to report his death.



MANDALUYONG'S FAIREST

Winners in the recently-concluded Miss Mandaluyong 2006 beauty pageant smile for the camera: (from left) Andrea Dimalanta, 4th runner-up; Rossann Robles, 1st runner-up; Raquel Dionglay, Miss Mandaluyong 2006; Christina Marcantonio, 2nd runner-up; and Jamela Aisha Alindogan, 3rd runner-up. With them are Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali Gonzales II and his wife Queenie.

METROBRIEFS

Store clerk killed

A STORE clerk in Taguig City was killed Wednesday night in what the police said was a case of robbery. Rolly Solde, 20, was shot in the head by still unidentified suspects inside the Jane Variety Store and Lechon Manok at Purok 3 in Barangay Upper Bicutan. Edward Lumpit, the victim's friend, told the police that he came to the store at around 7 p.m. to borrow Solde's cellphone. He was already at the back of the store when he heard a gunshot, he added. The shot was also heard by Amparo Lungab, the building owner residing on second floor, who went down to check on Solde and saw him lying bloodied on the floor. Simplicio Morlock, the storeowner, told the police that the store's earnings for one week were missing. "The money was allegedly in the possession of the victim. There is a possibility that robbery was the primary motive of the killing," said city police chief Supt. Ramon Reyes in his report. However,

er, the victim's cellphone and P2,500 in cash were found at the crime scene, along with an empty shell and a deformed slug of an unknown firearm, Reyes added.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Women's Month activities in Quezon City

A "STATE of the city's women address" describing the condition of the fairer sex in Quezon City will kick off the month-long observance of National Women's Month this March. Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. will deliver the address on Monday, during the flag-raising ceremony at City Hall, where he will talk about the strides made by the city in protecting women against discrimination and abuse. Quezon City is also playing host to the national celebration of the 25th anniversary of the

country's ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw). Cedaw is the first and only international treaty comprehensively addressing women's rights. This year's celebration of National Women's Month is being led by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women and the city's own Gender and Development Resource and Coordinating Office. With the theme "Cedaw ng Bayan: Karapatan ng Kababaihan," several activities have been lined up for the festivity. Among these are lectures on laws and policies regarding women, legal and medical services, an exhibit and a trade fair. Quezon City is the first Metro Manila local government unit to adopt a "gender and development code" which institutionalizes women's rights and issues.

DJ Yap

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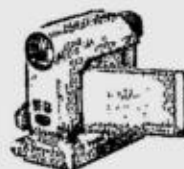
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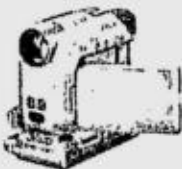
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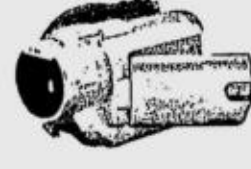
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MMDA lists 10 'killer zones' in Metro

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FIVE AREAS ALONG COMMONwealth Avenue were among the top 10 "black spots" or the most accident-prone spots in Metro Manila last year, reinforcing the thoroughfare's reputation as Quezon City's "killer highway."

The city, on the other hand, recorded the most number of accidents with fatalities during the same period, accounting for 109 cases or 34 percent out of a total 324 incidents.

According to a report of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Road Safety Unit (RSU), 11 accidents which led to deaths happened last year on Commonwealth Avenue (or Don Mariano Marcos Avenue), more than any other road in the Metro.

"There are areas on the road that are wide, while some are constricted," MMDA Traffic Engineering Center chief Ramon Ona said, explaining why the major thoroughfare was prone to accidents.

"There are portions on the stretch that are highly populated, including squatters' areas. It's a high-speed highway of irregular configuration with

densely populated areas," he added.

In fact, based on the data compiled by the MMDA's Metro Manila Accident Reporting and Analysis System (MMARAS), four of the top "black spots" last year are found on the avenue.

"Another factor is that people prefer to cross the road braving oncoming traffic, rather than walk the few extra meters to the nearest overpass," Ona told the INQUIRER, noting that overpasses can be found on Commonwealth's "black spots."

RSU data analyst Anna Coral sup-

ported Ona's observation, saying that most accidents were caused by inattentive pedestrians who crossed the roads despite high-speed traffic.

"If you observe the attitude of Filipinos, you would see that pedestrians usually ignore overpasses, and even destroy fences on the center islands just to get across. Add to that the number of vendors with goods for sale or vagrants who knock on car windows asking for alms," Coral said.

Ranked the top "black spot" was Tangdang Sora Avenue. Three accidents with fatalities occurred in the area last

year. Thirty-six other cases resulted in injuries and 150 caused damage to property. In second place was the area in front of St. Peter's Parish Church where two fatal accidents were recorded. A total of 27 accidents resulted in injuries while 86 others caused property damage. Ranked third was the avenue's intersection at Riverside, just several meters past St. Peter's, with two accidents that led to deaths, 20 that caused injuries and 45 others that left damage to property.

In fourth place was the area in front of the Commission on Audit, a short distance away from Riverside, with two accidents resulting in deaths, 10 cases leading to injuries and 37 others causing property damage.

The other areas in the list were: C5 Road near the flyover in Barangay Bagong Ilog, Pasig, Ferial Road along Commonwealth Avenue, JP Rizal Street in front of Guadalupe Bliss in Makati City, C5 Road in front of Market! Market! in Taguig City, and the corner of Katipunan Avenue and P. Tuazon Boulevard in Quezon City. Two accidents which led to deaths were recorded in the areas.

In last place was the corner of Edsa and Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City where an accident which resulted in death was recorded.

The MMARAS data showed that the majority of the 324 accidents with fatalities that were reported happened in Quezon City, which has the most number of major roads in Metro Manila. Compared to its 109 accidents that resulted in deaths, Manila had 50, Parañaque had 27, followed by Caloocan with 23.

In a bid to turn Commonwealth Avenue into a safer thoroughfare for motorists, commuters, and pedestrians, the MMDA has begun a comprehensive rehabilitation program targeting the thoroughfare's busiest stretch—a two-kilometer strip that begins 400 m before Ever Gotesco Mall up to 300 m past the Batasan Road intersection.

The project, set to be completed in time for the Christmas season, includes the installation of more footbridges, directional and safety signs, and loading and unloading bays.

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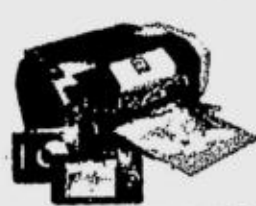
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Pasay council cracks down on lewd shows

By Jocelyn R. Uy

CLEAN UP YOUR ACT OR GET OUT OF town.

The Pasay City Council has ordered policemen, through a resolution, to strictly implement an ordinance that bans the staging of lewd or obscene shows in the city, and other activities "inimical to the welfare and morals of residents."

The city council ordered the renewed crackdown after observing that "there are still unscrupulous owners, proprietors or managers of amusement establishments operating in the city who violate the ordinance."

The ordinance defines lewd or obscene shows as the showing of performers' private parts, either in the nude or in "see-through" and "wet-look" attires.

Performers caught violating the law will be fined P2,000, or face imprisonment of less than a year if they cannot pay the fine.

Club owners, on the other hand, face a fine of P5,000 and a one-year prison term.

The ordinance also allows the mayor to order the closure of the establishment and revoke its business permit.

If the violator is a foreigner, the mayor may refer the suspect to the Bureau of Immigration for deportation.

The resolution, sponsored by Councilor Arnel Arceo, also directed city police chief Senior Supt. Rosendo Franco to provide the city council with a quarterly report on action taken against erring club owners and performers.

Franco, however, said he has not yet received the council's directives.

"But it is a continuing effort on our part to curb the proliferation of such activities in the city," he told the INQUIRER.

He added that the police are keeping an eye on nightspots along the stretch of R. B. Harrison.

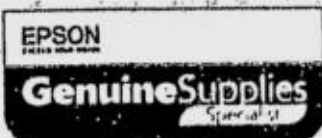
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■ Vitoria sees Arce tiff as Fight of the Year /A25



■ Aguilar, Jao Golden Wheel top awardees /A26

Danes, Mustangs still unscathed

PCU Baby Dolphins set 3 marks in 206-47 massacre of Batangas cagers

LEGAZPI CITY—PLAYING TRUE TO FORM, Angeles University Foundation and West Negros College posted contrasting wins to top their respective groups yesterday in the 60th National Students Basketball Championship at the Albay Astrodome here.

But the Philippine Christian University Baby Dolphins took the spotlight by setting three scoring records in the inter-secondary championship in Daet, Camarines Norte, with a 206-47 massacre of University of Batangas.

The Baby Dolphins became the first team ever to score more than 200 points in the history of the high school championship. PCU's 94 first-half points was also the biggest ever by a team since 1946, and so was its 159-point winning margin.

The AUF Danes broke away from a close match in the fourth quarter to down University of San Carlos, 86-80, and top Group B.

In Group A, the WNC Mustangs trounced Eastern Visayas State University, 92-69, to rule the

bracket going into the last three days of the week-long tournament organized by the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

It was the fifth straight wins for AUF and WNC, which will meet the No. 2 teams in the semifinals to decide the finalists in this event held under the auspices of the Albay provincial government and Legazpi city government, and supported by Burlington Socks, Air21, Health Options, Summit Mineral Water, Kuarta Padala and Accel.

USC, which dropped to 3-1, will dispute second spot in Group B against National Capital Region titlist National University (3-1) today.

University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, which won by default over Calayan Educational Foundation Institute (Region IV) for a 3-1 card, likewise fights for the second spot in Group A against Our Lady of Lourdes College (Region V), which turned back another home team Aquinas University, 94-86.

Cris Ingal, one of the AUF veterans scored a decisive trey with 1:34 remaining that gave the

Danes an 81-74 spread, before Allan Hicban and guard Raymond Go scored key baskets down the stretch to preserve the win.

Hicban finished with 23 points while Mennard Gueverra and Go added 15 each.

Paul Mangahas led PCU, the former NCAA runnerup, with 28 points in the game held at the Agro Multi-Purpose Center. All 12 Baby Dolphins fielded scored, seven of them in double digits.

The Manila-based squad held UB to only 22 points in the first half, 94-22, and made nine triples in the final half to post the most lopsided victory in the league's history.

Zamboanga City's Southern City Colleges escaped with a 92-81 win over local team Our Lady of Lourdes Foundation College for its second win in Group B of high school play.

Joining SCC at the top with a similar 2-0 record was Caloocan City's St. Claire Academy, which scraped past Cebu's Salazar College of Science Institute of Technology, 97-86.

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FONACIER: No. 1

Fonacier Rookie of the Year derby pacesetter

By June Navarro

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, ANOTHER former Ateneo Blue Eagle could end up as the Philippine Basketball Association Rookie of the Year this season.

Trying to replicate the feat of Ateneo teammate Rich Alvarez, Larry Fonacier of Red Bull has pulled away from the rest of the field in the race for the ROY award after the Bulls captured the Fiesta Conference crown recently.

Fonacier, selected 14th overall in the

second round by the Bulls, has compiled a total of 1,521 points based on statistics, won-game and playoff bonuses. The 6-foot-3 marksman had 670 statistical points, 750 won-game and 101 playoff bonus points.

"When we got him in the draft, the plan was to break him in gently," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao. "But he has proved himself. He has earned his minutes inside the court."

Fonacier's trek to stardom, however, wasn't easy. He suffered an ACL tear

on his left knee two years ago while playing for the Eagles in the UAAP.

In the draft, teams passed up Fonacier before the Bulls gambled and snagged him in the second round.

"Everybody was amazed at Larry's recovery," said Arben Santos, Fonacier's manager. "Luckily, he ended up with the right team which gave him a chance to prove himself."

From fifth place in the rookie race, Fonacier jumped to the top after 32 games, averaging 6.9 points, 3.1 re-

bounds and 1.8 assists per outing. Ranked 12th overall for the conference MVP, Fonacier is the only rookie in the top 30 players of the conference.

Dislodged from No. 1 for the ROY award was Sta. Lucia Realty's Alex Cabagnot, who led all rookies in the eliminations but faded in the playoffs after his team finished seventh.

Cabagnot now stands at sixth overall with 802 points. The Hawaii-based playmaker could still get a clear shot at the award if the Realtors make a good

account of themselves in the All-Filipino Conference beginning Sunday.

Curiously, a former University of the East Warrior moved behind Fonacier in the freshman contest. Nino Canaleta of Air21 accumulated 975 points after the Express barged into the semifinals for the first time in franchise history.

Red Bull's Leomar Najorda is running third with 930 points while Mike Holper of Barangay Ginebra and Red Bull's Paolo Bugia are neck-and-neck with 925 and 890 points, respectively.

Bibat shoots 71 for slim Tour margin

LIPA CITY—WITH HIS LITTLE KNOWLEDGE of the course, Michael Bibat went for the greens and not the pins yesterday.

The result was a one-under-par 71 that gave the mainstay of the gold medal-winning Southeast Asian Games Philippine team a one-shot lead in the opening round of the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour grand finals at the Summit Point Golf and Country Club in Lipa City.

Bibat finished with the lone sub-par round among the five finalists who spent the windless, humid day trying to get the feel of the course designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. in anticipation of the tougher rounds ahead.

Close on the heels of Manila Southwoods mainstay Bibat was Boyet Saragosa, the Canlubang veteran and national player who had a birdie, a bogey and 16 pars for a round of 72.

Young Tonton Asistio carded a 74, Jong Laput made a 76 and Erwin Vinluan struggled with a 77 in this event marking the culmination of a nationwide series sponsored by Samsung.

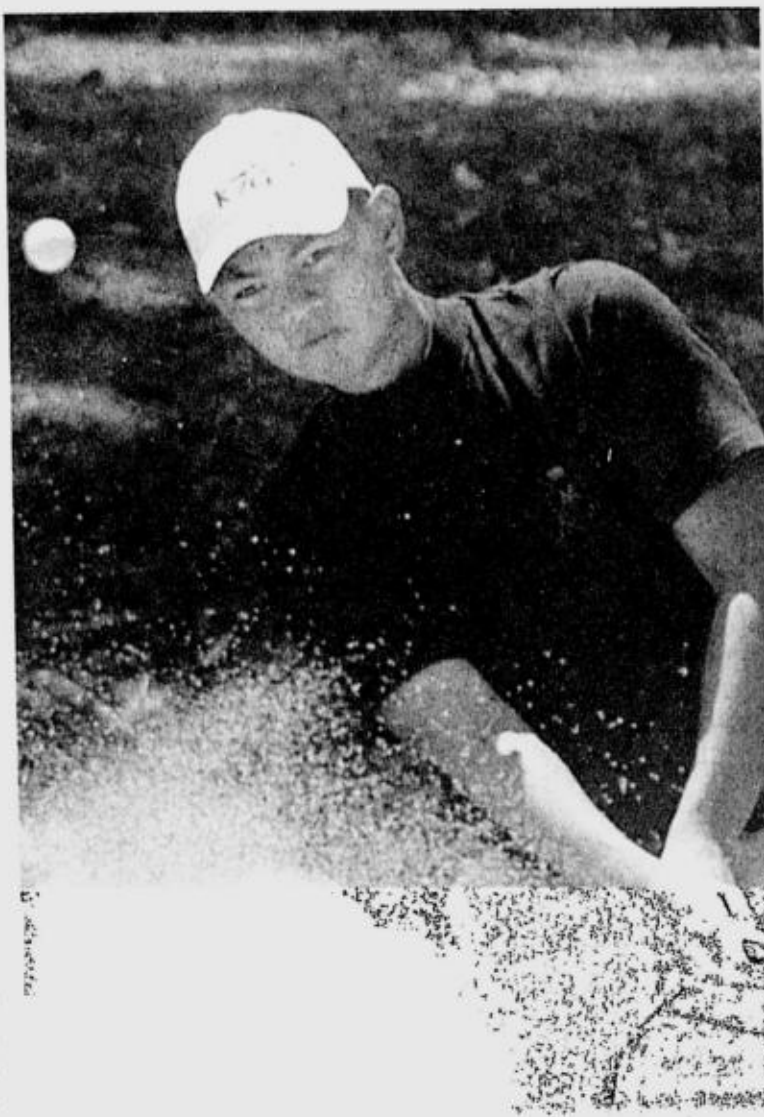
The five championship division finalists will try to position themselves for the final two rounds, where they will be joined by 35 other qualifiers playing in the 36-hole finals of various handicap divisions for men and ladies.

Bibat birdied two of the four par-5s, the fifth and the 14th, against a lone bogey on the par-3 eighth.

Asistio made just two birdies, one of them on the last hole, that went with three bogeys, while Laput had four bogeys and a single birdie on the 14th.

Vinluan had the most birdies with three but he stumbled with three double-bogeys and three bogeys in the grand finale of the event backed by Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Copperstone Sport, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

SportsPlus Channel will air the highlights of the event at a date to be announced soon.



ONLY ONE UNDER PAR: Michael Bibat shows fine form.

NSAs to deal with Sol-Gen, not PSC, on advances

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THINGS ARE GOING TO GET HARDER FOR delinquent national sports associations.

The latest warning came this time from the Office of the Solicitor General, which will now go after erring NSAs whose total unliquidated financial advances have already reached P88 million.

Sports commissioner Richie Garcia, who is in charge of NSA affairs, told the INQUIRER that the OSG has taken over from the Philippine Sports Commission the function of approving NSAs' request for funds.

The move, according to Garcia, is to help compel NSAs to show proof of their cash advances from the PSC which dates to as far back as 1992.

Of the 51 NSAs which drew cash advances from the PSC, only pencak silat, sailing and taekwondo were able to liquidate the advances, according to agency sources.

Cycling's P6 million total cash advance is the biggest in the unliquidated list, followed by archery and football with P5 million each. Athletics has a P1.6 million unaccounted fund. Also in the list of big spenders are karatedo, chess and canoe and kayak.

"The (new) process is OK with us," said Garcia. "It is the NSAs' obligation to give us receipts. We are not asking them to return the money, but at least they must justify [the expenses]."

However, the second-term PSC commissioner said the agency is concerned over the delay the new process would create in disbursing funds to athletes preparing to compete or train abroad.

"Maybe we can do the old arrangement, which was to go directly to the athletes and have a treasurer go with them to handle the money," Garcia said.

The amount of unliquidated funds, according to Garcia, has been reduced to P30 million during the term of chair Butch Tuason. Then it grew again in the past years, Garcia added.

Meanwhile, the political situation has prompted the House of Representatives to suspend the PSC's budget hearing scheduled yesterday.

A 2006 budget of at least P104 million is being eyed by the PSC, this being an Asian Games year.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez was informed of the postponement Wednesday night.

"It's their (House) prerogative," Ramirez told the INQUIRER.

The Department of Budget and Management had approved only a P28 million budget for the PSC this year. *With additional report from Musong R. Castillo*

Que, Miñoza join hot TeleTech Unity Cup debutant scoring in Jakarta tilt

JAKARTA—DAVID HIGGINS, WANG Ter-chang, Simon Dyson and Thon-chai Jaidee shot similar six-under-par 66s Thursday to share the first round lead at the Indonesia Open golf tournament.

Thailand's Jaidee looked set to claim the sole lead with six birdies and an eagle before dropping a bogey on the 18th hole under cloudy skies at the 7,082-yard Emerald Golf and Country Club.

Irishman Higgins made seven birdies against a bogey, while Taiwan's Wang, winner of last month's Malaysian Open, finished with eight birdies and two bogeys. Dyson of England backed up a first hole eagle with six birdies against two bogeys.

American Anthony Kang and



MIÑOZA: 71

joined the par-ripping spree.

Que, the 2004 Carlsberg Vietnam champion, eagled the first and the 17th holes, both par-5s, but could only score a 70. Que, tied for 23rd place with 13 others, also had three birdies but took five bogeys.

Miñoza had a one-birdie round in his 71. He was deadlocked for 36th place with 20 others.

Sweden's Steven Jeppesen joined Australians Andrew Buckle and Brad Kennedy a stroke back on 67.

Filipinos Angelo Que and Frankie Miñoza

A MULTITITLED TEAM WILL SOON MOVE out, but a new squad is coming in.

As pro-bound Welcoat Paints sees action one last time in the PBL Unity Cup, TeleTech kicks off its maiden campaign on March 25.

Also making his debut as head coach for TeleTech is Jerry Codifera, the longtime star center of Purefoods in the PBA. The 6-foot-5 cager last suited up for FedEx in 2005.

"With Codifera's stature and legacy, we hope the team will be a winner, too," said commission-

er Chino Trinidad after the PBL board formally approved TeleTech's application yesterday.

Welcoat, which will compete as Rain or Shine for the second straight conference, will move on to the pro league this October.

Codifera admits the TeleTech roster is bereft of big names, but said his main focus is just to get the right player for each position. The RP team member also plans to beef up his crew with young talents from the Rookie draft, which will be held at 1 p.m. today.

Jasmine W. Payo

Jungolf final leg this weekend

SLOTS TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS will be up for grabs in the final leg of the Jungolf school season series of the Samsung Tour slated this weekend at the picturesque Puerto Azul Golf and Country Club in Temate, Cavite.

Tee-off time is 9 a.m. To be disputed in the 36-hole final leg of a two-weekend qualifier are the seven regular Philippine team slots for the Asia-Pacific tourney slated

April 29 to May 2 at the Singapore Island Golf and Country Club in Singapore.

Leading the race for the free trips to Singapore are Gino Bunyi, Miko Yee, Marcel Puyat, Migs Ochoa and Jikjik Abdon in the boys' division and Bambee dela Paz, Cyna Rodriguez, Crystal Superal and Paulina Sotto in the girls' category.

Class E (7-8 years) and Class F (6 under) play will be held at the Riviera Golf and Country Club.

Wide-open All-Filipino race

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT IN THIS YEAR'S All-Filipino Cup of the Philippine Basketball Association which gets going on Sunday at the Big Dome? The series will feature a game slated in Hong Kong on March 19 pitting Talk 'N Text against Purefoods and seven out-of-town sorties aside from the usual matches at the Big Dome, Ynares Center and Cuneta Astrodome.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala said he is very positive about the future, adding that they're trying very hard to further improve Asia's first play-for-pay league. The PBA, which has no household names at present (unlike in the past when Robert Jaworski, Ramon Fernandez, Atoy Co and Alvin Patrimonio were playing), still managed to pull through with flying colors in the just-ended San Mig Coffee Fiesta Conference won by underdog Red Bull.

Brimming with newfound confidence, vigor and enthusiasm, Eala, together with a supportive board headed by chair Ely Capacio of San Miguel Corp., is keen on regaining the glory days of old. Their key to success? The intense competition among the teams; the five-peso general admission formula and the new format which limits the number of no-bearing games and rewards the achievements of teams.

For this year's All-Filipino conference, I'm go-

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



ing with the experts' opinion that it will be a wide-open race. In my view, crowd favorite and defending champion Barangay Ginebra, star-studded Talk 'N Text and multititled San Miguel Beer are still the teams to reckon with, although they will find the sailing rough against Red Bull, Purefoods and Air21. Alaska, Sta. Lucia and Coca-Cola have been unusually silent, but then silence is golden, di ba?

The teams have also taken steps to strengthen their respective lineups. Red Bull acquired 2004 Rookie of the Year Rich Alvarez from Alaska in exchange for the team's 2006 and 2007 rookie draft picks. His transfer to the Photokina franchise reunites him with former Ateneo teammates Rico Villanueva, the 2005-2006 PBA's Most Valuable Player of the Conference; vastly improved Larry Fonacier and up-and-coming Paolo Bugia, all of whom were members of the Blue Eagles team that won the 2002 UAAP title.

Although Purefoods lost power forward Jordan Salvador to injury and returned Howard Se to Air21 in an aborted trade, coach Ryan Gregorio said they are still looking forward to the next tourney. "We came in short (in the Fiesta Conference), but we will do better this time."

Air21, which finished third in the last conference, the team's best result since joining the PBA in 2002, has obtained battle-tested Mark Telan from TNT for John Perols. Said coach Bo Peral: "There's nothing to go for the team but up."

Ginebra will be fielding the same lineup while San Miguel will be beefed up by former Ateneo player and Air21 guard Wesley Gonzales and Brandon Cablay, who was acquired from Alaska in exchange for Nic Belasco. Talk 'N Text has taken the most drastic measure by naming Derrick Pumaren as new coach to replace Joel Banal. Aside from trading Telan and acquiring Perols, the Phone Pals have latched on to veteran Poch Junio.

Pumaren, erstwhile team consultant, said he would be relying not only on offense but on defense as well. "Offense is not a problem," he said.

On the other hand, Alaska remains a dangerous team even. The Aces will be bannered by old and new players who will be strutting Tim Cone's famous Triangle Offense.

Cantor reelected PSA president

JIMMY A. CANTOR, SPORTS EDITOR OF MALAYA, WAS REELECTED UNOPPOSED as president of the Philippine Sports Writers Association last Tuesday at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila. Immediately after his re-election, Cantor appointed Teddyvic Melendres of the Philippine Daily Inquirer as vice president, Rey Bancelo of Tempo as secretary, Aldrin Cardona of The Daily Tribune as treasurer and Jun Lomibao of Business Mirror as auditor. Cardona was tapped to replace Joe Antonio, sports editor of People's Journal, who retired after serving as treasurer to seven PSA presidents. Making up the PSA's board of directors are Ding Marcelo, Lito Tacujan, Recah Trinidad, Al Mendoza, Jimbo Gulle, Dennis Iñigo, Dina Marie Villena, Ana Federigan, Ed Andaya, Tito Deblols, Ernesto A. Gonzales, Ronnie Nathaniel, Joaquin Henson, Manolo Iñigo and Enrique Gonzales. Former PSA president Augusto Villanueva was tapped anew as PSA adviser.

Race 1—(Orl/Tri)—Hundred Reason (2), Sun Coast (5) Olive Oyl (4), Real Magic (3)
Race 2—(Orl/Tri)—Silver Music (5), St. Jek-Jek (3), He's So Lucky (7), Brazen Truth (2)
Race 3—(Tri)—Golden Pharaoh (2), Luxardo (1), Win Alter Win (4)
Race 4—(Orl/Tri)—Open Sky (8), El Love Senora (4), Strong Colony (3), Strong Jays (5)
Race 5—(Tri)—Batang Westside/Gun Powder (3), Western Legend (4), Manila Magic (5)
Race 6—(Orl/Tri)—Habagat (3), Valiant Queen (7), The Strategist (5), West Swinger (6)



BY TOP CHOICE

Race 7—(Orl/Tri)—Stratosphere (1), Jaw Breaker (8), Southern Prince (4), Top Most (5)
Race 8—(Orl/Tri)—Golden Fantasy (3), Monney Man (6), Smokin' Red (2), Tres Jeune (4)
Race 9—(Super 6/Orl/Tri)—Cool Turner (7), Anytime Anywhere (3), Skip Away (4), Bold Lucky (5), Alessandra (2), Nico's Incharge (10)

SPORTSWATCH



SLO-PITCH FEVER: Members of the Cebuana Lhuillier squad, led by playing team owner Jean Henri Lhuillier (right), during batting practice in preparation for their game in the 13th PANGAEA Cup, one of Asia's most prestigious slo-pitch softball competitions, which fired off yesterday at the Alabang Country Club. The team is gunning for its third straight title.

Elite Basketball Camp listing ongoing

SAN BEDA COLLEGE-ALABANG WILL SERVE AS TRYOUTS GROUND FOR THE young applicants of the International Basketball Academy's (IBA) Elite Basketball Camp. The school is IBA's by-invitation and all-expense paid program for Metro Manila's best high school basketball prospects. Top NBA and PBA coaches/players like David Wood, Eric Altamirano and Alex Compton will serve as teachers. The "stay-in" camp will run for six days at the Brent campus grounds in Mampalans, Laguna, from April 7-12. Tryout dates will be on March 11 at 1 p.m. for the third-year high school trainees and on March 12, also at 1 p.m., for seniors. Registration for the tryouts begins at 12:30 p.m. Deadline of submission for walk-in applicants is on Monday at 4 p.m. For inquiries, call 631-1195 or 0921-7562639.

60 fights up in Pasay cockfest today

THE FOURTH LEG OF THE PCCA 4-COCK DERBY SERIES BLASTS OFF AT 6 P.M. today at the Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complex 3000 as sponsor. At least 60 matches are on tap, according to pit manager Eric dela Rosa. Last week, 105 fights were held in the "Labanan Sa Pasay" 5-cock derby won by the Amador entry of Philip Chiongban. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750.

Four-cocker at SJC waives entry fee

SAN JUAN COLISEUM HOSTS ITS FIRST-EVER "NO ENTRY FEE" 4-COCK derby with a prize pot of P1.2 million on March 13, 15, 18 and 20 and with Sagupaan Complex 3000 as sponsor. Popular promoter Aba Badiola, with the backing of the SJC management, is host of the festival for small-time cockers. Participants who will score two wins in the 2-cock eliminations on March 13, 15 and 18 will pocket P6,000 each. For inquiries, call 0917-8264018, 7256563 or 7255369.

Aquathlon, triathlon get going Sunday

THE NATIONAL AQUATHLON SERIES WILL BE launched this Sunday, starting with the Speedo-Ateño Aquathlon at the Ateño campus grounds.

Slated at 6:30 a.m., the event organized by the Loyola Mountaineers will consist of a 2.5K run-1K swim-2.5K run at the grade school swimming pool.

Swim and sports apparel company Speedo has agreed to back this year's aquathlon series along with the National Age Group Triathlon Series of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines.

"We have always looked at our partnership with triathlon on a long-term basis and we believe the sport continues to grow in terms of number of events and participants every year," said Speedo EVP Manesh Mathani. "We will always be ready to lend a hand to triathlon, including supporting the national triathlon team."

"We expected close to a hundred runners, swim enthusiasts, mountaineers, triathletes, and members of the Ateño community, including the school's swimming team to be part of this event," said event organizer Fabian Mangahas, who can be reached at 0918-4299166. "Part of the proceeds will benefit the Dumagats of Gabaldon as they are beneficiaries of our group."

The second leg of the Speedo Aquathlon Series is tentatively set in Palau Island in Cagayan North in April.

Meanwhile, the 2006 Speedo-National Age Group Triathlon Series, TRAP's grassroots developmental program, will have its inaugural race on March 12 in Davao City, starting and ending at the Davao Insular Waterfront Hotel.

Organized by Vic Sai with the support of the Triathlon Association of Davao (Triad), this 1K swim-30K bike-7K run distance race is again expected to attract triathletes from all over the Mindanao.

TRAP president Tom Carrasco will be in Davao for the race and the induction of the newly elected Triad officers led by president Alexander Sam and vice president Ernesto Rivera. TRAP will also be donating a split timer to Triad in the event the Davao attracts at least 80 entries, including relay team participants. Contact persons for the Davao race are Sai at 082-2224595 and Maritess at Triad, 0918-9077677.

Other NAGT races set this year include events in Danao City in Cebu, Alaminos, Pangasinan and Clearwater inside Clark.



PACERS' David Harrison hangs on to the rim after dunking the ball against the Wizards. REUTERS

Kings too strong for fading Cavs

NEW YORK—KENNY THOMAS AND Mike Bibby were on hand to lead the Sacramento Kings in a 97-90 victory over the fading Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday.

Thomas scored 22 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, Bibby added 16 points and 12 assists as seven Kings players registered double-digit scores, Brad Miller with 15 points while Ron Artest, Shareef Abdur-Rahim, Francisco Garcia and Kevin Martin had 11 each.

LeBron James, Ronald Murray and Zydrunas Ilgauskas tallied 19 points each in the fifth straight loss for the Cavaliers.

Artest provided James with plenty of headaches, holding the Cavs star to well below his 30 points per game average.

Trailing 47-43 at the half, the Kings outscored Cleveland 35-26 in the third quarter to take control of the contest.

The Cavaliers battled back in the fourth and were down by two 90-88, but the Kings answered with a big three-pointer from Bibby and

jumper from Miller to blunt the comeback with less than a minute remaining on the clock.

In Denver, Kenyon Martin poured in 28 points and pulled down 12 rebounds to guide the Nuggets to a 98-87 win over the league leading Detroit Pistons at the Pepsi Center.

Carmelo Anthony contributed 25 points, seven rebounds and six assists to the Denver cause while Marcus Camby had 12 points and 20 rebounds for the Nuggets, winners of three of their last four games.

Chauncey Billups had 27 points and eight assists to lead the Pistons who had their six game win streak snapped.

In Memphis, Pau Gasol nailed a game winning jumper with 2.7 seconds to lifting the Grizzlies to a 101-99 decision over the New York Knicks, 101-99.

Gasol finished the night with 23 points while Chucky Atkins added 21.

Stephon Marbury had 25 points and 13 assists to pace the woeful Knicks, who have lost 21 of their last 23 games. Reuters

SOLAR SPORTS will air the Cleveland-Chicago tussle at 8 a.m. with a replay at 8 p.m.

RP's Amit gains q'finals of Women's 9-Ball meet

FILIPINO RUBILEN AMIT PLAYS BETTER with her back against the wall.

On the brink of elimination after dropping her first two matches, the 2005 Southeast Asian Games double gold medalist won her last three games Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the 2006 WPA Amway Women's World 9-Ball Championship at the Taipei Stadium in Taiwan.

The 24-year-old Amit yielded to CH Lin, 5-4, and Jasmin Ouschan, 5-3, on Wednesday, but stayed alive by subduing L. Weaver, 5-3, and L. Horsburgh, 5-2, respectively.

Amit, a first timer in the high-level \$70,000

tournament, then completed her amazing comeback by routing S.M. Liu, 5-0, in her fifth and final Group D match in the evening session.

Another Filipino, Johanna Dee, failed to advance after losing to Esther SY Kwan of Malaysia, 7-4, Shu-Ling Lin of Chinese-Taipei, 7-0, and Nouchi Masami of Japan, 7-2, respectively.

Meanwhile, defending champion Kim Ga-young of South Korea posted three consecutive wins over Melisa Herndon (5-3), Hynthios Orfanidis (5-3), and H.S. Lai (5-4) to take charge in Group A of the event that offers \$20,000 to the champion. Marlon Bernardino, contributor

German sends Agassi packing

DUBAI—ANDRE AGASSI slumped to a 7-5 7-5 defeat against Germany's Bjorn Phau on Wednesday in the second round of the Dubai Open, only his second tournament of 2006. A passive Roger Federer struggled before beating Kuwait's Mohammed Al Ghaireb, 7-6 6-4, to reach the quarterfinals. Russia's Marat Safin failed to follow up his first round victory over world number five Nikolay Davydenko, losing 7-6 6-4 to Belgian Olivier Rochus in his first tournament since a six-month injury break. Reuters



AGASSI: I allowed him to use his legs. Reuters

World champ leads Larrazabal cycling bets

SWISS BIKE TRAILS WORLD champion Hans "No Way" Rey will lead more than 600 local and foreign cyclists participating in the 5th Terry Larrazabal bike festival set in Ormoc City, Leyte, from March 30 to April 2.

This was announced by lawyer and cycling enthusiast Gregorio "Goyo" Larrazabal, organizer of the event honoring the memory of the late Ormoc City Mayor Emeterio Larrazabal Sr.

Aside from local cyclists belong-

ing to 90 clubs, the event has also attracted individuals and teams from Asia and the United States.

To be contested are the mountain bike cross-country and downhill races, BMX races and freestyle events, and the prime event, the three-day Tour de Leyte.

Rey has gained prominence for dominating the international bike trials scene and his around-the-world biking exploits which have been featured in the National Geographic and other maga-

zines. He has pedaled in places such as the rocky snow-capped mountains of Peru, the deserts of Mexico and the jungles of Borneo to name a few.

Larrazabal said they expect more local and foreign spectators as the Department of Tourism has included the bike festival in the Philippine tourism calendar.

Slated for weekend and recreational bikers are the night ride around Ormoc City and a fun ride around Lake Danao. Other attrac-

tions of the event, being backed by Rudy Project, Power Bar and Yehey.com, are a fireworks display, bazaars and street parties.

Bike shops will be setting up booths in the main staging area of the festival and will offer equipment and services as well as free racing and bike setup tips from professionals. Participants to the bike festival will also be contending for the King and Queen of the Festival. For details, visit www.terrylarrazabalbikefest.com.



VILORIA pays a courtesy call to President Arroyo Wednesday. LYN RILLEN

Viloria sees Arce tiff as Fight of the Year

IF HIS FIGHT AGAINST MEXICAN Jorge Arce pushes through, Filipino-American Brian "Hawaiian Punch" Viloria predicts it's going to contend for Fight of the Year.

"I believe this will be one of Fight of the Year encounters aside from the Pacquiao versus Morales part III," said Viloria, the World Boxing Council light flyweight titlist, in yesterday's press conference held by Solar Sports at the Oakwood Hotel in Greenbelt, Makati City.

Viloria arrived in the country Tuesday from the United States, where he defended his crown via a 12-round unanimous decision over Mexican Jose Antonio

Aguirre, only the third time that Viloria went the distance.

"It (Aguirre fight) made me realize that I can't win them all by knockout," said Viloria, who's unscathed after 19 fights, including 12 knockouts.

Viloria appeared in the presscon, attended by Solar Sports chief operating officer Peter Chanlong, with a bandaged right hand due to a slight fracture he sustained against Aguirre. "It will take two to three weeks to heal," said Viloria.

Other boxers being considered as Viloria's next opponent is compatriot and mandatory challenger Juanito Rubillar and Aguirre.

Flash Elorde Memorial Awards set March 25

FILIPINO BOXERS WHOSE EXPLOITS on the international scene have made headlines the past year will be honored in the Banquet of Champions during the sixth annual Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Memorial Awards on March 25 at the Dusit-Nikko Hotel in Makati.

Johnny Elorde Management International and the Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Foundation is presenting the awards for the sixth straight year in memory of Flash Elorde, one of only two Filipinos elevated to the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

"This is a night of celebration for the country's finest boxers," said Laura Elorde, wife of the Flash. "The Elorde family is again presenting the

boxing awards to recognize the outstanding achievements of Filipino boxers as well as promoters, trainers and others who have contributed to the promotion of the sport."

Professional boxing dominated the sports headlines last year with the international campaigns of Manny Pacquiao, Brian Viloria and Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista.

"Through the Elorde Memorial Awards, we hope to inspire other boxers to work even harder to bring honor and glory to their country," said Johnny Elorde, a boxing promoter and one of the sons of the Flash who is overseeing the event.

The country's biggest accolade for Philippine professional boxing,



ELORDE

will coincide with the 71st birth anniversary of Flash Elorde, whose unsurpassed seven-year reign from 1960 as world junior lightweight champion made him the greatest Filipino boxer of all time.

The honor roll will include Philippine champions of 2005, former world champions, best promoter, manager, trainer, referee and judge, matchmaker, most promising boxer, with special awards for the best fight of the year as well as patrons and special boxing friends.

Event sponsors are Pagcor, PCSO, Family Rubbing Alcohol, Smart, San Miguel, Casa Belina Travel, Johnson and Johnson, Bai and Mig Party Favors and Elorde Sports Center.

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

Building 1, Energy Center, Moritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its Corporate Budget of 2005 intends to apply the sum of P10,245,588,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the ON-CALL LIGHTERAGE SERVICES (the "Project"). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

PNOC EC now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the ON-CALL LIGHTERAGE SERVICES. The contract duration for the Project is One (1) year.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discriminatory, pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidding with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from PNOC EC's Procurement Section (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting February 24, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Pesos. Two Thousand Five Hundred (P2,500.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on March 15, 2006, 3:00 P.M. at the PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted in three (3) sets each to PNOC EC's Bids and Awards Committee not later than 2:00 P.M. on March 28, 2006. The bids including the eligibility requirements shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurement.gov.ph

(P111-Feb 24 & March 3, 2006)

Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee



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01 March 2006

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID No. CMIPP-CM-01-06

The NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION Cascanan Multipurpose Irrigation System, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, invites all interested SUPPLIERS/DEALERS to submit application for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of Various Construction Materials with an approved budget of One Million Eight Hundred Ninety One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Pesos (P1,891,630.00).

Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Issuance of Bid Forms to interested parties shall be from March 03-15, 2006. A corresponding non-refundable cost of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) shall be charged for the bid documents payable to the collecting/disbursing officer of the Project before issuance of bid forms.

Sealed Bids/Quotations in Duplicate Forms accompanied by a Bids Security in the form of CASH, CERTIFIED CHECK, CASHIER'S CHECK ONLY and equivalent to one percent (1.0%) of the total approved budget (ABC) shall be dropped in the Bid Box for Goods/Supplies and Services located at the Office of the Project Manager not later than 12:00NN of March 16, 2006 and will be publicly opened at exactly 1:00PM of the same date at NIA-CMIPP Conference Hall.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", shall govern this procurement schedule.

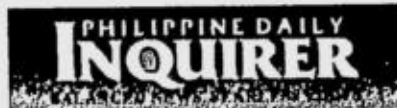
Only prospective bidders registered with the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), Procurement Services of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) are qualified to participate in the Bidding.

The NIA-CMIPP/BAC reserves the right to reject any or all such bids/quotations waive any defect found therein and to accept the offer which is most beneficial to the government. The decision of the BAC in the evaluation of bids/quotations is final.

All inquiries pertaining to this Invitation to Bid may be directed to the above mentioned Office.

(Sgd.) SERAFIN A. PALTENG
Project Manager

(PDI - March 3 & 10, 2006)



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SPORTS

Aguilar, Jao Golden Wheel top awardees

Lucena Milo run slated Sunday

THE 30TH NATIONAL MILO MARATHON resumes its elimination races this Sunday, at the Perez Park in Lucena City.

More than 2,000 runners are expected to answer the starting gun to be fired by Lucena City Mayor Ramon Y. Talaga Jr. at 6 a.m.

Quezon Gov. Wilfredo L. Enverga will also be in hand during the awarding ceremonies.

Organized by the Lucena Striders headed by Lou Vizcocho, the race is supported by the provincial and city governments, the city sports

council office headed by Ramil Talaga, the police, Kabalikar, City Health Office headed by Dr. Wilfredo Frondoza, Jr., and the different barangays covered by the 21K race route.

Lucena City police chief Senior Supt. Reuben C. Sindac said that Merchan and Tagarao streets will be closed to vehicular traffic.

Milo Sports Events executive Pat Gocong said the top 10 winners in the 21K and 5K races during the first five legs of the 2006 season are no longer qualified to join Sunday's event.

MULTITITLED ANTHONY GLENN Aguilar and Jolet Jao bagged the top plums for their sterling motorsports performances in 2005 during the 3rd Annual Golden Wheel Award Tuesday night at the Airport Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

Aguilar was named the Golden Wheel International Driver of the Year for his solid runner-up finish in last year's FIM-UAM Asian Supercross Series and for helping Namssa-Philippines clinch the team championship.

To Jao, the nine-time Superbikes Rider of the Year, went the Golden Wheel National Driver of the Year honors for ruling five road races last year in a show of force that made him the unanimous choice for the award.

Jao topped the Shell Advance Superbikes Series, the Castrol Underbone Grand Prix, The Teknik Open Grand Prix, the Shell Advance 125 Open and the Teknik Mahimod race.

The victories of Aguilar and Jao underscored the success of the grassroots development program of the National Motorcycle Safety and Sports Association (Namssa).



MOTOCROSS star Glenn Aguilar (left) takes international plum, Jolet Jao the national honors.

"It came as a surprise to us that both the Golden Wheel International and National Drivers of the Year are products of Namssa," FIM-UAM vice president and Namssa director Macky Carapiet said during the awards night backed by Casino Filipino, Yokohama, Philipinas Shell, Denso and San Miguel Corp.

Golden Wheel trophies were also awarded to the top drivers in their respective disciplines—Jody Coseteng for touring cars, Michele Bumgarner for karting, Pepon Marave for Asian Formula Three, Leo Joel Cordero for drag racing, Alex Perez for rally, Daryl Flores for slalom and Albert Monte de Ramos for 4x4 off-road racing.

A special Golden Wheel trophy was also given to Ross Jamison, a Macau resident, for clinching the Rotax Max Asian Karting Open Championship Series.

Special trophies were handed out by Golden Wheel Foundation chair Johnny Tan and Macau Tourism Office-Philippines GM Narzalina Lim to Philipinas Shell, Caltex Philippines, Petron, Denso, Casino Filipino-PCSO, Yokohama Tires and San Miguel Corp. for their unwavering support to motorsports.

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UCC derby kick-off set

THE DERBY CIRCUIT OF the United Cockers Association kicks off on Tuesday at its home at the Texas Cockpit Arena in Antipolo City with Thunderbird Platinum as sponsor. Two other 3-cock derbies will be held on April 13 and 26 with Thunderbird Bexan-XP as backer. Entry fees and the cash prizes at stake will be announced through posters to be posted at TCA and nearby Metro Manila cockpits. The fourth and fifth derbies, both 4-cockers, are slated May 30 and June 20 with Thunderbird Multi-Grain Conditioner as sponsor. For inquiries, call or text 0915-5656100.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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18 RP films invited abroad

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THAT'S 18 films and counting. Jeffrey Jeturian's "Minsan Pa" was handpicked by associate programmer Christian Rabzukas for the Spring edition of the 9th Hawaii International Film Festival, which runs from March 31 to April 6. Cesar Montano's "Panagho sa Suba" was featured in the film fest's Fall lineup last year.

Ufo Pictures' "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" and Ian Gamazon and Neill de la Llanas' "Cavite" were chosen to be part of the 35th New Directors/New Films program presented by the Department of Film and Media at the Museum of Modern Art and the Film Society of Lincoln Center in New York, from March 22 to April 2.

"According to [program director] Richard Peña [of Puerto Rico], the last Pinoy films screened at this prestigious event were Lino Brocka's 'Maynila, Sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag' in 1975 and either 'Kisapmata' or 'Batch '81' by Mike de Leon in the early 1980s," said culture and arts officer Vicky D. Belarmino of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

"Maximo," Special Jury Prize winner in last year's Cinemalaya, opens the festival with Ryan Fleck's "Half Nel-

son," starring Ryan Gosling of "The Notebook" fame.

See related information in "Only In Hollywood" A2-4.

Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's "Mga Pusang Gala" is bound for the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Festival in June. "It's one of the oldest and biggest in the world," said Marfil.

Dante Mendoza's "Masahista," exhibited at the Bangkok Film Festival with Laurice

Guillen's "Santa Santita" last month, will be in the Melbourne Gay and Lesbian Film Festival this month and the Miami Gay and Lesbian Festival next month. It will also compete in Turin, Italy, in April and will be shown in Jeonju, Korea, in June.

Lav Diaz's "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino" and Ato M. Bautista's "Sa Aking Pagkakagising Mula sa Kamulatan" are in the heterodoxy ("avant-garde") program of the Mar del Plata International Film Festival, set

18 RP/A2-7

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ENTERTAINMENT

Rat Pack impressionists in Manila

THE RAT PACK—FRANK SINATRA, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr.—impressionists are coming to Manila for "The Rat Pack (Direct From Las Vegas)" show on March 25 at the Araneta Coliseum.

It will be a night of nostalgia, with the group performing such well-loved tunes as Sinatra's "Come Fly With Me," "New York, New York," "The Way You Look Tonight," "My Way"; Davis' "What Kind of Fool Am I," "For Once In My Life," "The Candy Man"; and Martin's "That's Amore," "Ain't That A Kick In Your Head," "Volare," "Everybody Loves Somebody." Call 374-2222 or 374-9999.

Brasil 2006

"Sergio Mendes & Brazil 2006: A Celebration of His Timeless Hits" is set at the Araneta Coliseum on March 18. Here's how to win free tickets to the con-

cert, and dinner for two:

Every P1,000 single or accumulated receipts from any Araneta Center Bus Terminal, Value Station and Farmers Market entitles the customer to one raffle coupon—for two lower box tickets, plus dinner for two at Oasis, Mandarin Café and Deli at Gateway Mall.

Present receipt at the redemption boots located at Gateway Mall Concierge Level 1, Ali Mall Upper Ground Floor, or Farmers Plaza Lower Ground Floor.

To buy tickets, call 911-5555.

SHOW TIME

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Amadeus at Merk's

March 6

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Dawn and Eugene at Merk's

March 7

MYMP and String of Souls at Tavern on the Square

Eight Note at RJ Guitar Bar

Aretha and Souled Out at Merk's

March 8

Ntwine at Tavern on the Square

RJ at Discovery Suites

Moonstruck at RJ Guitar Bar

Jacqui Magno at Merk's

March 9

Mocha at Tavern on the Square

Bamboo at Virgin Café

Moments at RJ Guitar Bar

Acoustic Jive at Merk's

March 10

Kearney Street at Tavern on the Square

Wiseguys and Freeway at Virgin Café

Tops Suzara at Aruba, Metrowalk, Pasig

RJ and Friends with Members at RJ Guitar Bar

Aretha and Souled Out at Merk's



HIGH-FLYIN' performers in "Bedazzled 5."

'Bedazzled 5' at Club Mwhah

CLUB MWAH! AT 652 BONI AVENUE, Mandaluyong City presents another Las Vegas and Broadway-inspired extravaganza, "Bedazzled 5."

The production numbers are bigger and more colorful, the pacing is faster, the change of sets more seamless than in the show's previous four editions.

Madonna's "Who's That Girl," with beautifully gowned and masked performers, segues to a spoof of Maria's "I Feel Pretty," from "West Side Story."

Other full-production numbers include: "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend," "Under the Sea," "My Heart Will Go On," "Waiting for Tonight," "Samba Suite," a Queen Nefertiti tableaux, an Eartha Kitt impersonation and "Phantom of the Opera."

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NASAAN SI FRANCIS 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 1:20 / 4:10 RELAYON 6:00 / 6:35 / 7:10 / 9:30 / 9:50	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 PORTRAIT...ARTIST 9:00
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4 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30	5 NASAAN SI FRANCIS 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	
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FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2006

ENTERTAINMENT

A2

Veritable world of film exists beyond commercial circuit

FILM BUFFS WHO WATCH NEW MOVIES in the Philippines are generally limited to viewing American productions showing on the mainstream theater circuit. As a result, they are severely restricted to commercial films that are big on production values but picayune when it comes to originality and substance.

As a result, they don't know what the rest of the filmmaking world is producing. This deprives them of the richness and vision of international cinema, and limits their growth as appreciators of the gifts of film.

Some local film buffs try to make up for the slack by attending the screenings of movies from different countries, sponsored by their respective embassies. But these mini-festivals are held only occasionally, so the rest of the time, movie lovers have to content themselves with viewing US films.

More creative viewers organize film clubs or watch movies on tape or on disc. Plus, if and when they can, they attend film festivals abroad, where the richness, diversity and originality of the film world is on full view.

At the recently concluded Bangkok International Film Festival, for instance, viewers from all over Asia were given their choice of

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

new and classic films from more than 50 countries, tackling topics seldom dealt with in more commercial movies:

From France, "Army in the Shadows" reveals the plight of resistance fighters in the Second World War.

From Italy, "The Consequences of Love" invades the psyche of human behavior, searching for what it hides.

From Brazil, "House of Sand" shows how three generations of women share their cycles of loneliness, feelings and dreams of escape.

From Turkey, "Istanbul Tales" unspools in five chapters by different directors, each a reference to a classic fairy tale.

From New Zealand, "River Queen" focuses on a woman who finds herself caught on both sides of the wars between Maori tribes and the British colonial army in the 1860s.

From South Korea, "Sympathy for Lady Vengeance" dramatizes the tragic story of a beautiful woman who is charged with the abduction and murder of a six-year-old boy.

From South Africa, "Tsotsi" is about a hoodlum on the lam who steals a car, unaware that a baby is in the backseat.

From India, "Water" is about a child bride who becomes a widow and is scorned, but learns to assert her rights and dignity.

From Vietnam, "Bride of Silence," an unmarried woman is discovered to be pregnant, and is ostracized when she refuses to reveal her lover's name.

From Cambodia, "The Burnt Theater" is about performing artists who try to revive an old venue that's been overrun with weeds.

From Indonesia, "Gie" is the film bio of a courageous political activist in the '50s.

From Malaysia, "Goalposts and Lipsticks" is about a female football team that overcomes prejudice and ridicule.

Topics such as these, when dramatized on the movie screen, help expand viewers' consciousness of and appreciation for the world they live in, as opposed to the narrow confines of commercial filmmaking in the United States.



TOPNOTCH WRITER, TOO
Actor Dan Futterman—we remember him in "The Birdcage"—and now we see him on Hallmark TV's "Judging Amy"—is nominated for an Oscar for his "Capote" screenplay, adapted from Truman Capote's nonfiction novel "In Cold Blood."

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2 FEARLESS 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	7 NASAAN SI FRANCIS? 1:40 3:40 5:40 7:40 9:40
3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00	8 PINK PANTHER 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	9 AEON FLUX 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00
5 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00	10 CLOSE TO YOU 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

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1 FEARLESS 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	5 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 CLOSE TO YOU 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	6 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 11:40 2:10 4:40 7:30 10:00
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	7 NASAAN SI FRANCIS? 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	

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1 CLOSE TO YOU 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15	5 MURDER 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00
2 FEARLESS 11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05	6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05
3 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 11:40 2:40 5:50 9:00	7 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 12:05 2:55 5:50 9:00
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10	8 NASAAN SI FRANCIS? 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

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6 SYRIANA
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8 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
9 RESERVED
10 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
12 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 AEON FLUX
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 PINK PANTHER
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
7 FEARLESS
8 CLOSE TO YOU
9 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
10 FIREWALL
11 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
12 SAW 2

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2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 PINK PANTHER
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8 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
9 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
10 FIREWALL

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4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
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A2-4

As Julia p

NEW YORK—OVERHEARD IN CENTRAL Park South:

"I'm going to watch Julia Roberts in her Broadway debut to find out if she can really act."

"I don't need to do that; I know that she can't act."

"But I need proof. This should be the ultimate proof that she can't act."

Catty, huh? We know that Julia Roberts can act, right? She has an Oscar for her performance in "Erin Brockovich," doesn't she?

Well, fans of Julia Roberts and doubters have snapped up almost all of the tickets to her Broadway debut, "Three Days of Rain." The rush for tickets caused ticket websites to crash. The play has nearly sold out its 12-week engagement. Will the actress, who is lying low in movies to concentrate on motherhood but can't resist the lure of Broadway's bright lights, earn a Tony nomination and eventually, an award?

I'm sure the ladies engaged in the bitchy exchange above will be watching closely.

Julia will not be the only movie star appearing on a New York stage this season. A scan of last Sunday's New York Times' list of upcoming spring plays showed that quite a handful of stars are doing "theatrical."

My editor's The One, The Only Ralph Fiennes returns to Broadway—he won a Tony Award for his Hamlet 10 years ago. The actor with the glacier-blue eyes is bringing his acclaimed Dublin, Ireland production of "Faith Healer" to the Booth Theater in May (but previews begin in April). Cherry Jones, who has also appeared in such films as "The Village" and "Signs" (both by M. Night Shyamalan) has the pleasure of appearing nightly with Ralph.

Alec Baldwin's character will compete with a sibling to "entertain" "The OC's" Chris Carmack in the dark comedy, "Entertaining Mr. Sloane."

Among the other stars treading the boards in the Big Apple this spring are Cate Blanchett ("Hedda Gabler"), Phyllis Rashad ("Bernarda Alba"), Ali McGraw—yes, the Ali McGraw of the 1970s weepie blockbuster "Love Story" ("Festen"), Sandra Oh ("Satellites") and Martin Short ("Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me").

Congratulations

WE GOT to personally congratulate Raymond Lee, producer of "Ang Pagdadalaga ni (The Blossoming of) Maximo Oliveros," on the movie's winning streak at an impromptu gathering cooked up by New York-based Fil-Am filmmakers and artists in Queens.

Our friend, Vincent Nebrija, brought us to the intimate get-together over champagne, wine, beer, siopao and other Pinoy favorites. The assembled young Fil-Ams celebrated the inclusion of UFO Pictures' "Maximo" and Unitel Pictures' "Cavite," the acclaimed work of Ian Gamazon and Neill dela Liana, as among the select list of 25 features from around the world that will premiere at the 35th annual series of the New Directors/ New Films Festival. "Maximo," directed by Aureus Solito and written by Michiko Yamamoto, has the honor of being one of the two opening night films of the Manhattan-based festival.

It was great to see fellow Pinoyos toasting their own in unity. It was chilly outside, even colder than in Sundance, where we first met Raymond, but inside the apartment of Ditsi Carolino, an award-winning documentary filmmaker ("Minsan Lang Sila Bata," "Riles," "Bunso"), the camaraderie warmed our Pinoy heart. Ditsi is here on a grant.

We missed Sari Lluch Dalena and her husband Keith Sicut, New York University film graduates and filmmakers who left earlier. The couple co-wrote/co-directed a recent film, "Rigodon," which stars Joel Torre, Chin-chin Gutierrez, Ching Valdez and Arthur Acuna.

Also at the evening gathering were Michael Bacol, Mapet Santos, Eric Ver. Caring Evangelista, Toti Manasan, Chris Pallarme, Lambert Parong, Troi Santos and John Paul Su. We arrived late so we also missed Mon Mappala (associate producer of "Batang Westside"), artists Jen and Manny Migrino, and Carmen Vicencio who, along with Lambert Parong, make up Kaya Collective, a group that raises funds and consciousness for NY-based Filipino filmmakers and artists.

Aureus is scheduled to fly into New York soon (this filmmaker is fast racking up frequent flyer miles!) for this latest festival that highlights "Maximo" and "Cavite's" LA-based Ian Gamazon and Neill dela Liana will also grace the event.

Presented jointly by the Film Society of Lincoln Center and The Museum of Modern Art's Department of Film and Media, New Directors/New Films has introduced talented filmmakers, many of whom went on to become trailblazers in world cinema, including Pedro Almodóvar, Wong Kar-wai, Spike Lee, John Sayles, Steven Spielberg and Wim Wenders. Vincent told us that the only other Filipino film-

ONLY HOLLY

Ruben Nepal

ENTERTAINMENT

Plans Broadway debut, 'Maximo' opens NY filmfest



makers who were invited in the fest were the late great Lino Brocka and Mike de Leon.

"Maximo" is scheduled to be shown at the Museum of Modern Art on Wednesday, March 22, 9 p.m. and at the Walter Reade Theatre on Thursday, March 23 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, March 25 at 1 p.m.

"Cavite," on the other hand, will be screened at the Museum of Modern Art on Friday, March 24 at 8:30 p.m. and at the Walter Reade Theatre on Sunday, March 26 at 3 p.m. Ticket information is available online at www.filmnlinc.com.

Vincent shared this quote from Raymond about "Maximo's" inclusion in the festival: "I'm happy and excited that this film is bringing tremendous pride not just to us, the filmmakers but also to the entire Filipino and Filipino-American community. It's a tremendous feeling to bring honor to one's country, and I can't thank the Cinemalaya organizers, and everyone behind it, enough for getting this film started and completed. It's been a long road but it's well worth it."

As for "Cavite," Unitel president/producer Tony Gloria ("American Adobo," "Imelda") said in a press statement: "Cavite" is a film we've been tracking to acquire since its February 2005 premiere at the Rotterdam festival. Its filmmakers represent the kind of talent that we're always looking for—a fresh approach to moviemaking, and an imagination not limited by budget or resources. The fact that they shot it digitally does not make their vision or storytelling any less than if they had shot it on film. That's why I'm proud of their work. I'm looking forward to its success not just in the Philippines, but internationally."

As we have previously reported, both Variety and Hollywood Reporter have given "Cavite" favorable reviews. The Los Angeles Times praised it for being "a thriller that's fresh and compelling to the end." The LA Daily News declared that it is "a breathless, jocular thriller" while the

NEW YORK-BASED Filipino filmmakers and artists recently feted Raymond Lee, producer of the multi-awarded "Ang Pagdadalaga ni [The Blossoming of] Maximo Oliveros." Seated, from left: Ditsi Carolino, Raymond Lee, Michael Bacol, Mapet Santos, Eric Ver, Caring Evangelista and Toti Manasan. Standing, from left: Vincent Nebrida, Chris Pallarme, Lambert Parong, Troi Santos and John Paul Su.

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March 3, 2006 Friday

6:00 p.m.
RELASYON
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9:00 p.m.
PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS FILIPINO
starring Daley H. Avellana & Naty Crame - Rogers

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6:00 p.m.
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9:00 p.m.
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2	MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:00 PG-13
3	PRIDE & PREJUDICE 12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:00 GP
4	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 GP

2ND WEEK

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Your
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Death?

When?
Where?
How?

Find Out...

FINAL DESTINATION 3

Village Voice hailed it as "brilliantly resourceful."

"Cavite" will be released in the United States by Truly Indie Films while Unitel Pictures has bagged the Philippine and worldwide rights (excluding North America).

It looks like 2006 will be a banner year for Filipino and Fil-Am films in the US. Aside from

"Cavite" and "Maximo Oliveros," these two movies are also scheduled to have a theatrical release in the States: Steve Mallorca's "Slow Jam King" (Unico) and Dante Mendoza's "Masahista" (Picture This! Entertainment).

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

OPENS MARCH 8

IN AMERICA THERE'S 'THE AMITYVILLE HORROR'...
IN THE U.K. THERE IS 'THE DARK'...

A GRIEF-STRICKEN FAMILY,
A TRAGEDY-HAUNTED HOUSE ON THE
CLIFFS OF WALES AND A SMALL TOWN'S
SECRET HISTORY

In an attempt to pull her family together, New Yorker Adele Tullian travels with her daughter Sarah to Anglesey, Wales in the U.K. to visit her contractor father - James Tullian.

The morning after they arrive, Sarah mysteriously vanishes. While the parents desperately search for Sarah, a guilt-ridden Adele is haunted by visions of her daughter as though she is trapped somewhere inside the haunted house. Adele soon learns of an ancient local legend of a place called The Dark - an ethereal land of the dead - and she becomes convinced that Sarah is communicating to her from The Dark.

Not long after Sarah disappears, Adele and James find themselves involved with a girl who not only bears a striking resemblance to their missing daughter, but reveals that she has returned from the dead to inform them on how to get Sarah back. They must follow the rule: 'one of the living, for one of the dead. The living must be sacrificed so that the dead can return. Townsfolk suspect that the Tullians are succumbing to the legacy of madness and murder that overwhelmed the house's previous tenants.

THE DARK
SEAN BEAN MARIA BELLO

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exclusively at
glorietta 4 & greenbelt 3

mtrcb rating: restricted 13

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Boston Society of Film Critics
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capote

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Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

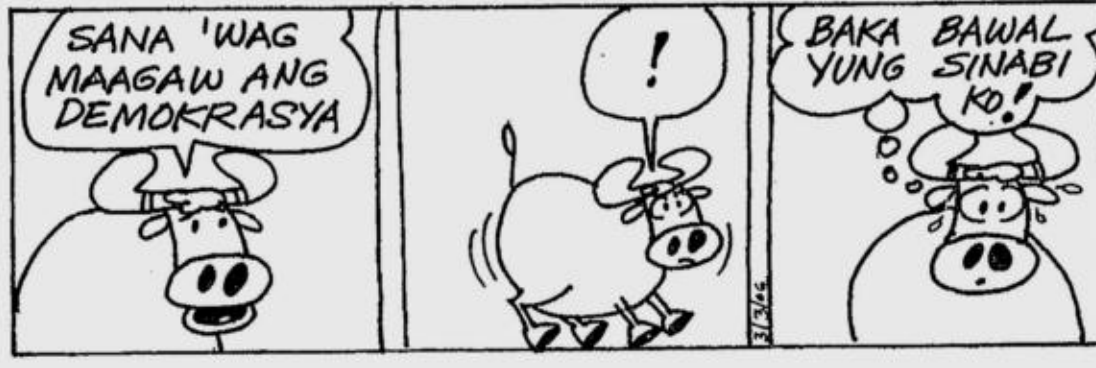
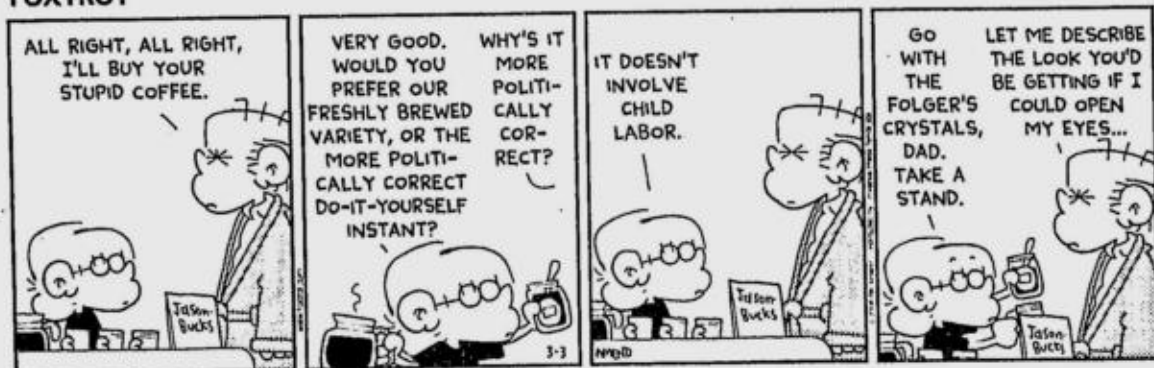
"Two thumbs way up."
EBERT & ROEPER

"A clear, steady gaze graces the smart biopic 'Capote,' which takes a mordant look at Truman Capote as the time he was writing 'In Cold Blood.' It's an etched-in acid portrait of a writer whose talent was as ruthless as it was brilliant."
David Ansen, NEWSWEEK

COLUMBIA PICTURES
www.unitedartists.com www.sonyclassics.com www.capote-movie.com

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MARVIN

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PUGAD BABOY

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BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONN



ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALIN



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You work hard. You do your homework, which means you're always well-prepared for whatever you do. You're resourceful, imaginative and practical as well. (A winning combo!) You're an excellent planner and problem-solver. You do many things very well. Expect a major change in the year ahead, perhaps as significant as in 1997.

Birthdate of: Alexander Graham Bell, inventor; Jean Harlow, screen legend; Jessica Biel, actress.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day for financial matters; it's also a good day to shop. Whatever you get will be beautiful and possibly practical and long-lasting.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Try to squeeze in a little time just for yourself today. A bit of solitude is exactly what you need. Perhaps you can do the crossword puzzle in this paper?



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You should be aware that others notice you today for some reason. Therefore, make sure you look good. Because you're a natural leader, others look to you for direction.



TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): The Moon is in your sign today. Although this can make you more emotional than usual, it also brings you a slight bit of good luck. You have the edge over everyone else! (Yay!)



CANCER (June 21 to July 22): A confidential conversation with a friend (possibly a female friend) will be comforting to you. You need to confide in someone. Alternatively, perhaps someone needs to confide in you.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today the Moon is in Taurus, your fellow Earth sign. This bodes well for you. Go forward with travel plans and matters related to publishing and the media. Sign up for a course for training or further education.

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJI



BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRI



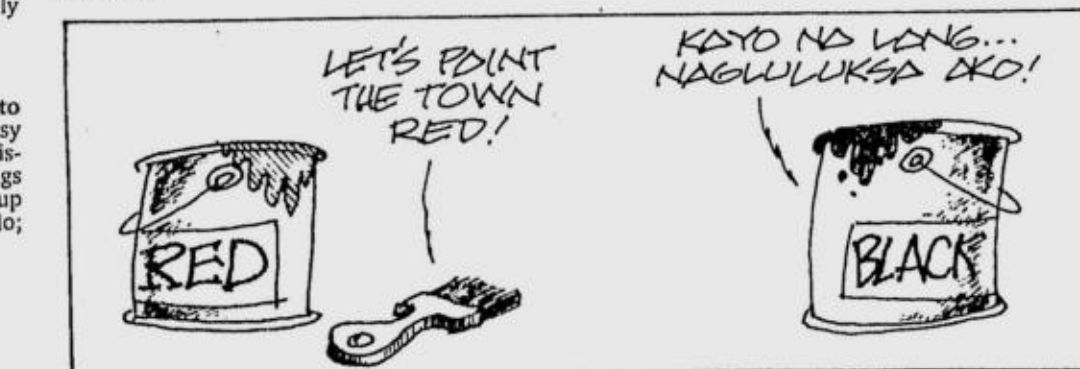
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONG



TULDOK

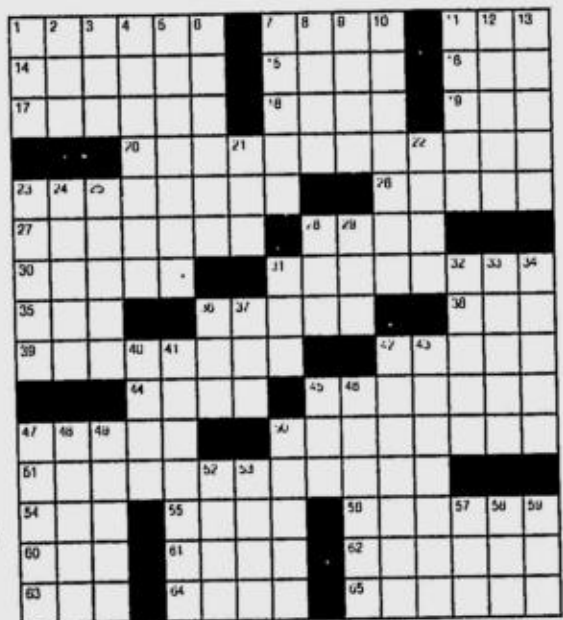
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBIL



DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Gratuity dispenser
- 7 Minstrel's ballads
- 11 Mass vestment
- 14 Moonstruck
- 15 Roberts University
- 16 "A Boy Named" (Cash hit)
- 17 Circumvents
- 18 Yorkshire river
- 19 Chasing game
- 20 Trustworthy
- 23 With 31A, trustworthy
- 26 1990 Swayze film
- 27 Ice cream dipper
- 28 Creative spark
- 30 Panky's partner
- 31 See 23A
- 35 Benz ending?
- 36 Hopscotch
- 38 Jay follower
- 39 With 50A, trustworthy
- 42 Me tool
- 44 Genetic comparisons
- 45 Influence
- 47 Laugh at a joke, e.g.
- 50 See 39A
- 51 Trustworthy
- 54 "Much... about Nothing"
- 55 On the peak of
- 56 Lake source of the Mississippi
- 60 Daystar
- 61 Rajah's mate
- 62 Gods' beverage
- 63 Kickoff need
- 64 Out-back building
- 65 Author Graham



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

3/3/06

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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DOWN

- 1 "Whether... nobler..."
- 2 John Hancock medium?
- 3 Tire pressure meas.
- 4 Had a portion (of)
- 5 Inevitable deterioration
- 6 Keep house
- 7 Puts aboard
- 8 Diva's song
- 9 Fish story
- 10 Horse-drawn vehicles
- 11 Jetson's dog
- 12 Island feasts
- 13 Father
- 21 Sense organ
- 22 Sign of spring
- 23 Hearth remains
- 24 Meager
- 25 Hopeless case
- 28 Valuable connections
- 29 Susan of "L.A. Law"
- 31 Legendary Giant
- 32 Giraffe cousin
- 33 Actor Navarro
- 34 Fizzling out
- 36 Woods' org.
- 37 Exclamations of surprise
- 40 Structure with a keystone
- 41 Weeping
- 42 More stocky
- 43 Go faster than
- 45 Philip of TV's "Kung Fu"
- 46 Secret writing
- 47 Facetious tribute
- 48 Embody with
- 49 Set things right
- 50 To one's liking
- 52 Flaming Gorge state
- 53 Cornbread
- 57 Canonized
- 58 Half a dance?
- 59 Have life?

ENTERTAINMENT

A2-7

Int'l women's film fest ongoing at UP

ONGOING AT THE UP FILM INSTITUTE UNTIL MARCH 8 IS THE 16th International Women's Film Festival.

The festival opened on March 1 with the Victoria Abril starrer, "Cause toujours!" from Jeanne Labrune and closes with Niki Caro's "North Country," starring Charlize Theron, on March 8 at 7 p.m.

Joan Chen's "Xiu Xiu: The Send Down Girl" was screened last night, and Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Ipaglaban Mo" earlier, at 5 p.m.

Today's movies: "Rush, It's Gone" from Iran, 5 p.m.; Laurie Guillen's "Santa-Santita," 7 p.m. Also, an interactive work by Indonesian Nersita Primadewi at 2 p.m., the Spanish short "Manola Gets the Bus" and Sigrid Bernardo's "Babae."

Tomorrow: "In the Beginning Woman was the Sun" from Japan, 2 p.m.; "Tempting Heart," 7 p.m.

March 5: "Connie and Carla," 5 p.m.

March 6: "Mga Pusang Gala" by Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil, 5 p.m.; Ishmael Bernal's "Relasyon," 7 p.m.

March 7: Jane Campion's "The Piano," 2 p.m.; the Creteil Grand Prix winner, "Sepet," by Yasmin Ahmad of Malaysia, 5 p.m.; Patricia Ferreira's "Para Que No Me Olvides," 7 p.m. Call 926-3640.

BRUCE WILLIS MOS DEF DAVID MORSE

For a New York cop and his witness, the distance between life and death just got very short.

1 WITNESS...
118 MINUTES...

16 BLOCKS

IN
THEATERS
MARCH 8

18 RP films ...

From page A2-1

in Argentina from March 9 to 19, said Diaz.

Mark Gary's "Sandalang Bahay," part of the Cinema One digital film fest last year, was accepted to the official selection section of the Newport Beach Film Festival, April 20 to 30.

Genre flicks, like Erik Matti's "Exodus" and Rico Maria Ilarde's "Sa Ilalim ng Cogon" and "Aquarium" (of "Shake, Rattle and Roll 2K5"), will be shown at the Udine Far East Film Festival in Italy from April 21 to 29.

As reported earlier, 12 Pinoy digital films are also bound for the Fribourg International Film Festival in Switzerland, March 12 to 19, for screenings in a special section dubbed "Philippines: Digital Cinema from Revolution to Ebolusyon."

These are: "Maximo Oliveros," Mes de Guzman's "Diliman," "Ebolusyon," "Pusang Gala," Khavn de la Cruz's "Pugot," Sari Lluch Dalena and Keith Sicat's "Rigodon," "Cogon," "Sandalang," Sigfreid Barros Sanchez's "Laspongols," Liza Cornejo's "Sitak" and Joel Ruiz's "Mansyon."

Diaz's "Heremias" is the lone Pinoy film in competition in Fribourg.

According to Evelyn Vargas-Knaebel, digital programmer of the Philippine section, it is "fitting to present all these new digital works on an international platform."

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THX

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G4	GLORIETTA 4	1	FINAL DESTINATION 3	2	MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA	3	PRIDE & PREJUDICE	4	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1	MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA	2	FEARLESS	3	PRIDE & PREJUDICE	4	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1	PRIDE & PREJUDICE	2	FEARLESS	3	PRIDE & PREJUDICE	4	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1	FEARLESS	2	PRIDE & PREJUDICE	3	PRIDE & PREJUDICE	4	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	FEARLESS	2	WALK THE LINE	3	PRIME	4	CLOSE TO YOU
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1	FEARLESS	2	PRIDE & PREJUDICE	3	PRIDE & PREJUDICE	4	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2

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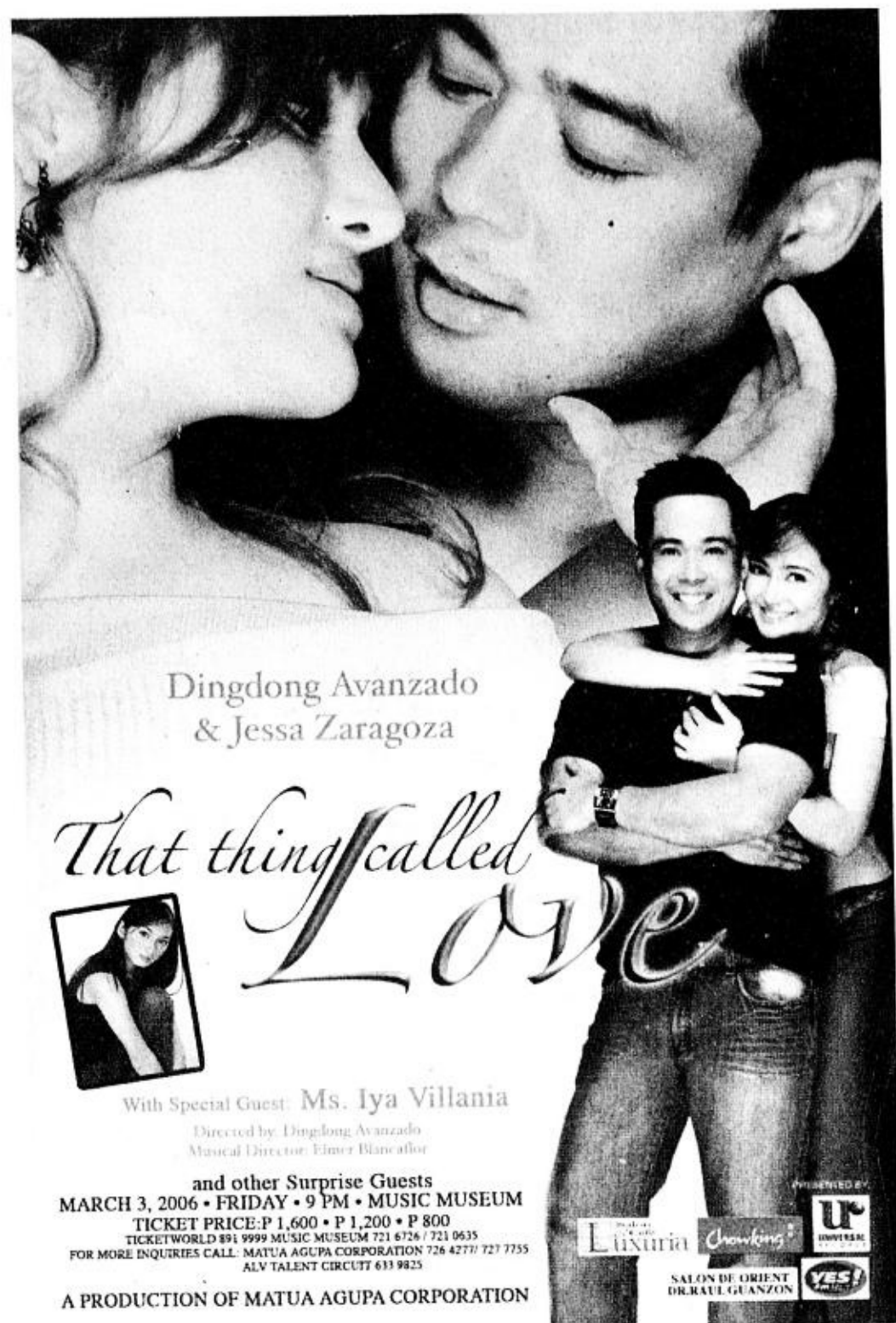
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A time for Botox and caviar
Celebs pull out all the stops to be at their most fabulous for next week's Academy Awards night

LOS ANGELES—CELEBRITIES are pulling out all the stops to look prettier, thinner and more fabulous in preparation for the Academy Awards on March 5.

If ever there was a time for a little bit of plastic surgery or a Botox injection, it's now. For the truly adventurous, there is caviar to be rubbed on skin rather than eaten on toast.

A spa product maker gives nominees caviar eye cream, purported to regenerate skin cells and impart a youthful glow.

The white cream is odorless. A publicist explains: "They don't want it to smell like you're putting fish eggs on your face."

New York dermatologist Dr. Patricia Wexler said most pre-Oscar treatments involve Botox, chemical peels or fillers to plump up lips and cheeks. Wexler said she once performed liposuction on an Oscar attendee days before the event to remove back fat marring the look of an expensive gown. *Reuters*



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FEARLESS PG13 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:20, 10:30	FINAL DESTINATION 3 R13 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45	PRIDE AND PREJUDICE G 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

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BUSINESS

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Peso still gaining ground

Feb 'hot money' inflows also hit 11-month high

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE PESO YESTERDAY HIT 51.22:\$1—ITS LEVEL BEST IN nearly three-and-a-half years—as domestic security alert levels eased while other Asian currencies further gained ground against the US dollar.

Strong foreign investments in local stocks, bonds and bank products also supported the peso, as net portfolio inflows hit \$515.3 million in February, reversing the net outflows of \$117 million in January, ac-

cording to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Last month's net portfolio inflows, or "hot money," was reported to be the highest in 11 months.

The local currency got its boost after it

was reported that the three agencies tasked to assess the domestic security situation would likely recommend the lifting of the state of national emergency within the 72-hour deadline set by President Macapagal-Arroyo Wednesday.

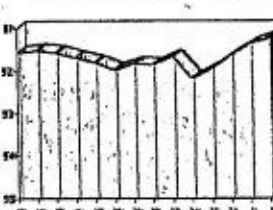
The peso opened at 51.30 and hit an intra-day low of 51.335 before surging to 51.21 against the greenback. Yesterday's rate was the peso's strongest finish since Aug. 1, 2002, when it closed at 51.115.

"The peso continued to show strength,

PESO/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



FEBRUARY

MARCH

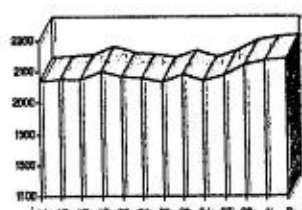
STOCK MARKET

P 51.22 = \$
Y 116.08 = \$

As of 5 p.m., March 2, 2006

GOLD: \$564.10-564.60

per ounce Hong Kong, March 2, 2006



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 0.11% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED slightly higher, adding 0.11 percent, as gains in heavyweights Ayala Corp. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone

(PLDT) offset profit-taking after a three-day rally, dealers said.

They said investors were relatively re-

SHARES/B2

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CROSSWINDS
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CORPORATION

San Miguel 2005 profit seen hitting P8.9B

National Foods, Berri leading revenue earners

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL CORP., SOUTHEAST ASIA'S largest food and beverage firm, is expected to report a 2005 net income of P8.9 billion, slightly higher than the P8 billion posted in 2004, industry sources told INQUIRER.

If it does, San Miguel will beat expectations by some analysts that it will post a lower 2005 net income of between P7.3 billion and P7.8 billion.

Analysts were not so bullish on San Miguel due to the conglomerate's high financing charges and the anemic sales growth of its beverage and liquor units.

Sources, however, said that San Miguel's revenue growth more than offset the high financing charges, thus, leading to a profit growth for 2005.

Analysts expect revenues to grow between 21 and 34 percent in 2005 with contributions from San Miguel's newly acquired international businesses.

These include Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd. and brewery Berri Ltd., as well as Malaysian ice cream brand, King's Creameries.

In the third quarter last year, National Foods pitched in 24 percent to total revenues and accounted for 31 percent of total operating profits. Local businesses did not fare as well.

Leo Venezuela, analyst at ATR Kim Eng Securities said San Miguel's hard liquor unit, Ginebra San Miguel Inc., would weigh on the parent firm's growth due to the high cost of its raw materials.

Consumers have also started shifting to beer instead of hard liquor since the price difference between gin and beer has narrowed.

Improvements to boost revenues of beverage subsidiary, Coca-Cola Group, have also yet to bear fruit.

Martin Español, analyst at online broker 2TradeAsia.Com, also said demand for food and beverage last year was pulled down by the imposition of the expanded value added tax.

"We are hoping for a slightly better performance this year as San Miguel begins to integrate its acquisitions," Español said.

San Miguel recorded a net income of P5.23 billion in the first nine months last year, down 6.1 percent from P5.57 billion in the same pe-

riod the previous year due to high financing charges on loans used to acquire control of Australian dairy National Foods.

Financing charges amounted to P3.28 billion during the period, without which the net income would have increased by 1 percent.

During the nine-month period, San Miguel's consolidated revenue grew 32 percent year-on-year to P161 billion.

Analysts then had expected San Miguel's debt-funded acquisitions to hurt its earnings. San Miguel said National Foods Ltd. and Berri Ltd. made hefty contributions to foreign revenues in the January-September period.

The consolidation of National Foods into San Miguel, beginning in June, contributed P15.9 billion in revenue and P1.46 billion in operating profit as of end-September last year.

San Miguel said it registered double-digit growth across its businesses during the period.

However, the rising costs of raw materials, packaging and utilities tempered gains in operating income to P12.2 billion, up 9 percent year-on-year.

Nañagas quits as DBP prexy

By Doris C. Dumlaog

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES chair Vitaliano Nañagas II has resigned as president of the state-run lender following a run in with the bank's higher management, banking sources said yesterday.

Citing "personal reasons," Nañagas submitted a copy of his "irrevocable" resignation to the government bank's board of directors during last Wednesday's meeting, sources said.

Nañagas reportedly had a falling out with DBP president Reynaldo David, whose management style clashed with his own.

DBP sources said Nañagas also had clashes with other bank staff.

The resignation will be effective as soon as it is accepted by Malacañang, the sources said.

When asked about the matter, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said yesterday he did not know whether Nañagas' resignation had been accepted by Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Nañagas and DBP president David were not available for comment as of press time.

Before joining DBP, Nañagas was president of the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Prior to joining government service, Nañagas spent over 20 years working for various financial institutions, including Citibank/Citicorp (Manila & New York, 1972-1988), Bank of the Philippine Islands (director and member of executive committee, 1995), Monte de Piedad Savings Bank (director, 1994-1995), First Metro Investment Corporation (Vice Chairman/director, 1995-1996), Global Business Bank (president & CEO/director, 1995-1996) and the Equitable-PCI Bank (vice chairman, 2001).



TRADERS talk on the phone at the Philippine Stock Exchange. Share prices closed 0.11 percent higher yesterday, after President Macapagal-Arroyo said she would give up emergency powers at the earliest possible time. The President's statement helped ease political concerns, dealers said.

Megaworld '05 income up 43%

PROPERTY developer Megaworld Corporation reported a 43-percent increase in its income last year to P1.15 billion from P808 million in 2004.

Megaworld said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that revenues last year were up 19.3 percent to P5.32 billion.

Ongoing residential projects contributed to the company's strong earnings performance, according to Megaworld treasurer and spokesperson Francis Canuto.

These projects included Eastwood Parkview, Grand Eastwood Palazzo and One Orchard Road in Eastwood City, Forbeswood Heights at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig and Greenbelt Radissons and Greenbelt Parkplace in Makati.

Rental income also contributed to revenue growth, pitching in P547.82 million from P454.65 million in 2004. Megaworld's flagship project, Eastwood City, accounted for the bulk of the rental earnings, with its Cyber One office building and City Walk 2 leisure strip posting healthy occupancy levels last year.

Cash and cash equivalent balance, at P2.85

billion, was 6 percent more year-on-year.

Current ratio stood at 2.34:1. Total equity rose by six percent to P17.87 billion from P16.77 billion in 2004.

"The company, with current assets amounting to almost P15 billion and a bank debt-to-equity ratio of 0.07:1, is in a strong liquidity position," Canuto said.

"This year, we expect our residential projects in Fort Bonifacio—Bellagio, Forbeswood Parklane and McKinley Hill Village—and The Residential Resort at Newport City at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, to be major sales drivers," he said in a statement.

Bellagio and Forbeswood Parklane are part of the P15-billion Forbes Town Center at the Global City.

McKinley Hill Village, which offers subdivision lots to a high-end market, is the first residential phase of Megaworld's 50-hectare McKinley Hill mixed-use project in Fort Bonifacio.

The Residential Resort, meanwhile, is a low-density, 3.7-hectare community close to the Villamor golf course.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Peso still gaining ground

From page B1

drawing from the market's dollar-selling momentum on Wednesday, exporter dollar sales, portfolio inflows, as well as overseas Filipino workers' remittances," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

The peso gained another 16 centavos from Wednesday's closing rate of 51.38 to the US dollar.

The peso continues to gain against the greenback for the fourth straight trading day, since the emergency declaration was invoked Friday and political tensions escalated over the weekend.

"The peso was also supported by stronger regional currencies and weak corporate demand," Tetangco said.

Trading volume at the Philippine Dealing System was still heavy at \$668.4 million.

"Offshore traders are selling US dollars," one currency trader said.

The Japanese yen, Thai baht, Singaporean

dollar and Indonesian rupiah likewise strengthened against the US dollar.

Yesterday, political jitters began to ease after the heads of the Department of Justice, Department of Defense and the Philippine National Police said the situation had vastly improved and that they could recommend the lifting of the state of emergency.

Foreign analysts said the lifting of the state of emergency was needed to restore normalcy in the financial markets.

After the profit-taking that led to net outflows in January, portfolio investments in the country rebounded in February despite the political concerns that weighed on the country's sovereign credit rating.

In the first two months of the year, the country chalked up \$398.3 million in net portfolio inflows—smaller than the \$877.4 million posted in the same period last year.

DISCLOSURES

LAWYER HEINZ M. Reyes has resigned from Liberty Telecoms Holdings Inc. as corporate secretary and information officer Feb. 28, 2006. Company chair Raymond M. Moreno hired lawyer Eusebio Dulatas Jr. as acting corporate secretary until a permanent replacement is appointed.

DMCI Holdings Inc. disclosed a total of 7,530 outstanding preferred shares.

RUFINO Antonio Mijares and Prudencio C. Somera Jr. have resigned as independent directors of Basic Diversified Industrial Holdings Inc., Basic Petroleum and Minerals Inc., and Basic Consolidated International Inc., subsidiaries of Basic Consolidated Inc.

CHINABANK will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 4, 4 p.m. at China Bank Building, Penthouse, Paseo de Roxas corner Villar Street, Makati City. Compiled by Kate Pedrosa, PDI Research

Shares ...

From page B1

laxed about the current political situation, but nervous about possible further tensions and so were unwilling to push prices too much further ahead.

As such, the market is likely to enter a consolidation period and move in a narrow range in coming sessions, unless there are further political surprises.

The composite index added 2.34 points to 2,137.61, a new month-high. It traded between 2,126.25 and 2,151.99. Volume was 687.35 million shares worth P1.2 billion (\$23.40 million).

The all-shares index gained 2.89 points to 1,027.22.

Losers outnumbered gainers 42 to 37, with 58 stocks unchanged.

The peso was at 51.28 to the dollar by mid-day.

Top-traded Ayala Corp. ended up P12.50 to P345, supported by heavy buying from foreign investors following its sell-off last week. PLDT was up P30 to P1,810.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of March 2, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH FINANCIAL BANKS	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	8,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34.5	34.5	34	34	340,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59.5	59.5	58.5	59.5	2,523,800
China Banking Corp.	650	655	650	655	2,150
Citibank Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.47	0.47	16,490,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	85	85	84.5	85	118,700
International Exch. Bank	25.5	25.5	25	25	92,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36	36	34.5	34.5	648,100
Philippine National Bank	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	42,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	251,600
Security Bank Corp.	38	38	38	38	78,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	34	35	34	35	135,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.8	180,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25	25	25	25	500
Manulife Financial Corp.	3230	3230	3230	3230	820
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	150,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	147	148	146	148	2,050
San Life Financial Inc.	2200	2200	2200	2200	130
Swanage Corp.	0.82	0.83	0.8	0.8	6,170,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	45	45	44.5	45	271,700
First Phil Hlgs Corp.	42.5	43	42	42.5	1,013,200
Manila Electric Co. A	13	13	13	13	25,000
Manila Electric Co. B	19.5	19.5	19	19.25	168,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.4	5,838,000
Patron Corp.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	370,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.93	0.91	0.92	480,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	15,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	20	20.25	19.75	19.75	95,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	36.5	36.5	35.5	36	156,300
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	450,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	42,000
San Miguel Corp. A	61.5	62	61.5	62	15,700
San Miguel Corp. B	83.5	83.5	83	83.5	78,800
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	8,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18.25	5,034,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.32	2,440,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.24	1.26	4,859,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.1	1,030,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	230,000
CHEMICALS					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	10,000
Metro Alliance Hlgs B	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Stenial Manufacturing	0.38	0.43	0.38	0.42	2,970,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	342.5	345	337.5	345	799,730
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	270,000
Abolito Equity Ventures	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	873,000
Alabanc Global Group Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	500
A. Soriano Corp.	2.4	2.42	2.4	2.42	690,000
APC Group Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	219,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.87	1,330,000
Balabac Resources & Hlgs	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	40,000
Bengres Holdings Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	48,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.96	0.96	3,880,000
Fi-Estate Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.05	3.1	337,000
Fillinvest Dev. Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	40,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.88	2	1.88	1.94	3,647,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	92,000
Pacific	4.7	4.85	4.7	4.85	578,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	11,100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	640,000
Sinophi Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	770,000
South China Resources Inc.	226	227	225	226	841,330
Sealont Resources Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	300,000
Union Res. & Holdings Co	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	200,000
Unilab Industries Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	500,000
Unilab Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	6,810,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	12,772,000
Belle Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.96	0.96	740,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	50,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.235	2,080,000
Cebu Holdings, Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.74	1.76	1,500,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	30,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	1,900,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,270,000
ELB Realty Developers Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	5,830,000
Empire East Land Inc.	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.24	2,910,000
Fillinvest Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	2,460,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.23	0.21	0.21	2,460,000
Phil-Estate Land Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.4	1.42	4,350,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	3,770,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.35	0.31	0.35	18,230,000
MPC Allied Ind. Inc.	1.46	2.38	1.46	2.38	22,000
Polar Property Holdings	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	12,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	5,940,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.46	13,000
SM Development Corp.	8	8.1	7.9	8	3,137,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,100,000
Unilab Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,100,000
SERVICE MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.25	11.5	11	11.25	66,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.89	0.9	0.87	0.9	1,490,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	875	875	840	845	8,850
Philippine Tel. Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.3	3,437,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1800	1815	1800	1810	23,550
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	30,000
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.32	1.24	1.28	578,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	2,600,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	1,900,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.28	377,000
Philweb Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.027	68,600,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	50,000
Intl Container Term'l Sv	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	539,000
Kepel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	210,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	230,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.74	1.78	1.74	1.74	3,885,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	10,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	3,050
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	990,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	600	600	600	600	430
Ipeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	22,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Paxys Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	998,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.97	730,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	750,000
Atlas Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000
Abra Cons. Min & Dev't	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.6	840,000
Lepanto Cons Mts. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	5,050,000
Lepanto Cons Mts. Co. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	3,450,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	4,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	30,000,000
Omicor Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	88,000,000
Philix Mining Corp. A	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	2,745,000
Philix Mining Corp. B	27	27	26.5	26.5	42,500
Semirara Mining Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	520,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	520,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidating Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	350,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	34,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	37,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	40,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	70,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	7,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series C	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hlgs. Corp.(PDR)	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	446,700
SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES					
Cashboards Inc.	6	6	6	6	1,000

Strike at ABC-5 looms

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE OPERATIONS of the Associated Broadcasting Corp. may be paralyzed next week after the employees' union of the country's third-largest broadcast company voted in favor of declaring a strike.

During a vote called by the union last week, 118 members voted next week after the employees' union of the country's third-largest broadcast company voted in favor of declaring a strike.

While the results are official and partial, it is overwhelming [in favor of a strike], he said.

Efforts to bridge the gap between ABC-5's contending parties have all but collapsed after management asked Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas to assume jurisdiction over the case—a move which union employees said would prevent them from staging a strike and weaken their bargaining position.

In a telephone interview, ABC-5's union president Carlo Jizumundo said rank and file employees were prepared to go on strike on Monday. The station's union asked management to grant its members security of tenure and compensation in the event they are laid off.

Union members also demanded better pay and retirement benefits as part of their five-year collec-

tive bargaining agreement effective 2005-2010.

Management, for its part, is counting on a favorable decision from Secretary Sto. Tomas to have the case elevated to her office on grounds that a strike would endanger the "national interest."

"As a broadcast company, we have a duty to stay in operation especially during these times," according to ABC-5's director for human resources Hans Montenegro.

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AUCTION DATE: MAR. 8, 2006 (WED) @ 10:30 AM

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SITE LOCATION: 333 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO. CRISTO, PULILAN, BULACAN
AUCTION DATE: MAR. 12, 2006 (SUN) @ 10:30 AM

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Online broker bullish

By Abigail L. Ho

ONLINE STOCK BROKERAGE firm CitiseOnline is banking on the declining cost of connectivity and the expected growth in Internet penetration to at least double its customer base to 1,000 by 2007.

"The service will pick up as people become more familiar with it," CitiseOnline president Conrado Bate said in an interview yesterday.

Existing and potential investors based in the provinces would also benefit from online trading, he said, since they would no longer have to go through brokers in Manila to execute their trades.

Many of the company's current top clients, he said, were based in the Visayas.

CitiseOnline's current user base registered an average monthly turnover of P5 million each, he said.

He noted that this was bound to improve in the coming months as the country's Internet penetration rate improves and the cost of connectivity drops.

According to research firm IDC, the number of Internet users in the country will almost double to 21.5 million by 2008 from 11.8 million as of 2004.

The volume of e-commerce transactions in the country was also expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 55 percent from 2005-2009, Bate said.

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- Highly motivated; Aggressive; Hardworking;
- Must possess excellent oral and written communication skills both in English and Filipino;
- Preferably Male, willing to work on a graveyard shift, fast-paced, dynamic and flexible environment.
- Background in sales is not necessary, but a plus.
- Applicants must be living within either Pampanga, Bataan, Zambales, Nueva Ecija or Tarlac.

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PRULINK	PRU LIFE UK	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Feb. 28, 2006	Last Week Feb. 21, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.39233	1.39140
Managed Fund - Peso	1.51093	1.50454
Growth Fund - Peso	1.15095	1.13418
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2430	1.2372

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

Investment Funds of	UNIT PRICES (in Php)	
Feb. 27, 2006	Feb. 20, 2006	
Fixed Income Fund	1.124816	1.128990
Balanced Fund	1.109281	1.113487
Equity Fund	1.074966	1.079227

* These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission. The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insurancelifund.com.ph.

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Misamis Occidental
Municipality of Bonifacio

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit of Bonifacio with office address at Poblacion, Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Procurement of One (1) Unit BRAND NEW Articulated Motor Grader GD 511A-1

Location : Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental

Brief Description : Engine: S400SL turbocharged direct injection diesel engine; air cleaner, double element type

Electrical System: Alternator, 25-ampere; Starting motor, 5.5-kW; Batteries, 2x12-volt 100-AH

Operator Environment: Seat, rigid type, height adjustable; Speedometer, Km/h indication

Work Equipment : 3.7-meter blade; Bank cut system; Drawbar shift, hydraulic

Special Arrangement: Hard water area arrangement (engine with corrosion resister)

Other Standard Equipment: Front and rear tires (13.00-24 BPR tubed G2) with rims; Front weight; Wired stepladders; Marks and plates, English Painting

Equipped with the following attachments:

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6GA01-B	HEAD LIGHTS	6GB14	INSTRUMENT PANEL
6GA03-C	WORKING LIGHTS, FRONT		COVER AND LOCK
6GA05-C	WORKING LIGHTS, REAR	6GL22	WATER SEPARATOR
6GA14-C	COMBINATION LIGHT	6GM51-B	ENGINE SIDE COVERS
6GA15	BACK-UP ALARM	6ZWALL	ALL MATERIALS
6GA22	REAR VIEW MIRROR, LH & RH	6ZZ31	GENERAL TOOL KIT

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : Nine Million Pesos (P9,000,000.00)

Contract Duration : Six (6) months

Delivery Period : 3-4 months

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	March 13-14, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	March 17, 2006 @ 10:00 A.M.
3. Opening of Bids	April 3, 2006 @ 2:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	April 4, 2006
5. Post-qualification	April 5, 2006
6. Notice of Award	April 7, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) to the LGU Cashier.

The Local Government Unit of Bonifacio assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bid.

Approved by: (Sgd.) VIRGINIA A. BACARAMAN
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Feb. 24 & March 3, 2006)

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the:

DISPOSAL OF NON-PERFORMING ASSETS (electrical materials and vehicles)

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

- Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacinto)
 - Company Profile
 - Business Registration
 - Business Permit
 - Bi/RVAT Certificate
 - Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
 - List of Clients for a period of three (3) years if applicable
- Must be able to pay P2,000.00 for this particular bidding only and not refundable for bid documents during the pre-bid conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline for submission of requirements—March 10, 2006.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI - Feb. 26 & March 3, 2006)

STARCM
SUPPORT TO AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITIES IN CENTRAL MINDANAO
Project Management Office
3rd Floor ROMA Building, Quezon Boulevard, Kidapawan City 9400
Tel. #: (084) 278-4009 Fax: (084) 278-4252 Email: starcm@philcom.ph

NOTICE OF VACANT POSITIONS

STARCM is a special Project of the Government of the Philippines funded by the European Union and implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). The Project provides support for the development of agrarian reform communities in the provinces of Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur. The Project is seeking to fill the following positions with duty station at the Project Management Office in Kidapawan City:

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST (1) Duty Station: Kidapawan City	BS/MS Degree in Applied Social Sciences or related discipline with more than 5 years in institutional development work focused on community organizing/ community development, capacity-building & organizational development. Experience should also include training management; from TNA, project administration/coordination and evaluation; networking and alliance building with NGOs and LGUs. Relevant work experience as frontline worker and/or supervisor/ program manager is required.
CHIEF ACCOUNTANT (1) Duty Station: Kidapawan City	Must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with a minimum of five (5) years relevant work experience and be familiar with the financial regulations and procedures of government agencies. Experience working with Foreign-funded Projects will be a distinct advantage.
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST (1) Duty Station: Kidapawan City	Should have a Master's degree in business administration, economics, enterprise development or a closely related discipline. He/she will have at least three (3) years commercial experience of small businesses and be familiar with the preparation of financial projections and marketing plans. S/he must have a clear understanding of business principles and should have applied them to small and/or medium sized enterprises. Experience with successful cooperative business ventures will be a distinct advantage.

The Specialists must be physically fit and prepared to undertake fieldwork throughout Central Mindanao. S/he must be fluent in English and highly proficient with Microsoft Office software.

Only shortlisted applicants will be notified. Deadline for the submission of applications is on 17 MARCH 2006.

(Sgd.) GLYNN P. BAKER
European Co-Director

(Sgd.) OSCAR A. MAMA
National Project Director

An application letter, including a resumé detailing duties, responsibilities and relevant experience, and a copy of transcript of records should be submitted to:

The Project Co-Directors
STARCM Project Management Office
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9400 Kidapawan City

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OBITUARIES

CONSORCIO CANLAS HERNANDEZ

of Piñaranda, Nueva Ecija & Fairview, Quezon City.

June 22, 1939 – February 28, 2006

Bereaved wife, Ninfa Palay Catain

Children, Fernando Cresente; Rosendo Victor and Raquel; Barbara Aleli and Nemesio; Ma. Cynthia; Patricia Ann; Jose Eduardo; Carmelia Aurora; grandchildren Trishia May and Tristan Carl; Kathryn Rose, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Ascension Chapel, Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Regalado Avenue, Fairview, Quezon City. Interment will be on Saturday, March 4, 2006 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.



JORGE VELASQUEZ BUAN

of Arayat, Pampanga

Now rests in the infinite warmth
and embrace of our Lord.
He peacefully joined our Creator
on February 28, 2006 at the age of 72.

His loving wife Natividad, children Bong and Cecille, Alex & Alice, Beck & Yeng, Dhay & Sandy, Ana Marie(+), Jojo & Bing, Astrid, Lea & Wilbur and grandchildren, request the relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at San Jose (Mesulo), Arayat, Pampanga.

Interment will take place on Saturday, March 4, 2006, at Arayat Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

BENEDICT BUENAVENTURA BAUTISTA

of Nagbalon, Marilao, Bulacan
(July 18, 1984 - February 28, 2006)

His loving parents, Bienvenido J. Bautista & Emilia Lim Buenaventura; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nagbalon, Marilao, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 5, 2006 at the Marilao Catholic Cemetery after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

MARCELO CAANGAY DAMILES

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on February 27, 2006

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, consoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

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— 2 Corinthians 5:8

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More Classified Ads on pages A11, A25 and B3.

Customs exceeds February collection target

Renewed anti-smuggling campaign paying off

By Michelle V. Remo and Leila B. Salaverria

SUSTAINING THE MOMENTUM ACHIEVED at the start of the year, the Bureau of Customs surpassed its revenue target for February, posting total collections of P12.49 billion.

The February collection was about 2 percent higher than the target of P12.28 billion, and 35.5 percent better than year-ago level.

This brought the BOC's total collections for the first two months of the year to P24.88 billion, surpassing the two-month goal of P24.36 billion.

In January, the BOC also exceeded its goal, collecting P12.396 billion compared with the P12.083-billion target.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales attributed the BOC's positive performance in the first two months of the year largely to the revitalized campaign of the agency against smuggling.

According to a BOC report, nine of the bu-

reau's 15 collection districts exceeded their February targets.

The Port of Batangas posted the biggest surplus of P707 million, followed by the Port of Manila with P404 million.

Also exceeding their targets were the collection districts at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, by P30.1 million; Iloilo, by P10.1 million; Zamboanga, by P2.5 million; Subic, by P2 million; and Tacloban, by P1.4 million; Legaspi, by P400,000, and Clark, by P300,000.

Failing to meet their goals were the Manila International Container Port, and the Ports of Cebu, Zamboanga, San Fernando, Surigao, Cagayan de Oro and Davao.

The bureau's performance in the first two months of the year bodes well considering that January and February are traditionally lean seasons in terms of importation, Morales said.

Despite the first two-month performance, however, Morales said it was still difficult to say

that its full-year target was easily achievable.

"While the modest gains will boost confidence, the agency cannot sit on its laurels as the finish line tape is too far away," Morales said in a statement.

The BOC is given the daunting task of raising P192 billion in cash this year 2006. The amount is 27 percent higher than its 2005 target of P151 billion. Including non-cash collections, the target increases to P196 billion.

The BOC, the second biggest revenue source of the national government following the Bureau of Internal Revenue, is pressured to meet its target to keep the government on track of the goal of reducing, and eventually eliminating, the budget deficit.

In 2005, the deficit stood at P146.5 billion, still huge but was already much lower than the ceiling of P180 billion set for last year.

The government has set a goal of reducing the deficit to P125 billion this year, and to totally wipe out the budget gap by 2008.

Bureau of Customs and agriculture

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

CAN THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS TRANSFORM itself from being the farmers' worst enemy to its best friend?

In 2003, it did just that. Then Presidential Security Guard head General Hermogenes Esperon reported that 40 percent of imported containers arriving in Metro Manila contained smuggled goods. Within three months, the smuggling rate dropped to less than 1 percent.

Success story

This was due to Esperon's efforts through the PSG, and the active involvement of the Alyansa Agrikultura farmers and the Bureau of Customs, then under Commissioner Antonio Bernardo. In addition to acting swiftly on the farmers' smuggling leads and allowing them to participate in the opening of containers, Bernardo also implemented critical Alyansa recommendations.

Since no one had ever been jailed for smuggling, the practical way to punish the smugglers was to prevent them from getting back their goods. The smugglers did this through paying a small financial penalty or winning the auction for these goods at less than market prices through syndicates.

Bernardo removed these two alternatives. He allowed the disposition of smuggled goods only through re-export, destruction and donation to charitable institutions. With these new policies and the increased cooperation between the BOC and the farmers, the smuggling rate dropped significantly.

There was an objective indication of this. The depressed carrot price of P7 per kilo, mainly due to the smuggled carrots, increased back to its former break-even price of P12. This saved the livelihoods of 80,000 Cordillera carrot farmers.

Makati Business Club meeting

Two days ago, in a break with its usual practice, the Makati Business Club invited small fishers and farmers, through the

COMMENTARY

Alyansa Agrikultura, to participate in a forum on the transparency and accountability of the BOC. By this time, the Alyansa had had a series of positive actions from Customs.

Two weeks earlier, the Alyansa joined other organizations in asking Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes to suspend an order implementing the Mandatory Environment Insurance Coverage (MEIC). This was adversely affecting the food processing firms, which were forced to spend for insurance that was not needed. Also, of the 41 environment insurance firms accredited by the DENR, only one said it had the capability to implement this insurance scheme. The effective result is a monopoly.

The final blow came because of BOC cooperation. Information gathered by the Federation of Philippine Industries from the BOC indicated that this firm allegedly has outstanding financial obligations of more than P400 million, a case on this has been pending in court. FPI president Jesus Aranza said, "This firm must have a stronghold on the previous DENR administration. *Talagang malakas ang kapit.*"

Secretary Reyes has since suspended indefinitely the MEIC implementation.

New initiatives

At the MBC meeting, BOC offered more promising new initiatives. Director Rey Umali said that BOC would use private volunteer lawyers as deputies or cooperators in their Run After The Smugglers (RATS) program. Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales stated he was willing to share the Inward-Forward Manifests (IFMs) with the Departments of Agriculture and Trade and Industry. This is very significant.

The IFM lists the products being imported, the ship being used, and the date of its arrival. However, only the BOC has these IFMs. With the DA and the DTI also having this list, and the private sector harnessed to help with this information, smuggling is expected to substantially decrease.

Today, United Nations data show that \$10 billion worth of exports to the Philippines are not reported by BOC. With this improvement, assuming a 12-percent VAT and an average tar-

iff of 6 percent, this could yield as much as P90 billion more in tax revenue.

A danger

However, a danger was highlighted by Fernando Peña of the Confederation of Port Users. He said that a BOC-supported order was on the verge of being sent for publication to partially implement RA 9260, or the Customs' Brokers Act. This order might limit participants in the import transaction process to only licensed brokers. This would prevent other parties like companies which own the imported goods and lawyers from exercising these functions. In the past, these companies and lawyers have done this responsibly and legitimately.

Peña said, "The danger to the wrong implementation of this law through this customs' order is that costs will increase, jobs will be lost, business will be delayed and much needed additional investors will shy away from the Philippines because of the imposition of unreasonable and self-serving constraints."

It was discovered that the desired consultations on this order with the stakeholders, including the farmers and fisherfolk, have not been made. It is therefore recommended that this order be deferred until these consultations take place. Then, despite some hitches, the BOC can continue its path to becoming the best friend, rather than the worst enemy, of agriculture.

(The author is Agriwatch chair. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

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NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT THE BEST OFFER (BLOCK SALE OF EQUITABLE-PCIBANK SHARES)

In view of the requests of interested parties brought about by recent events/developments, the deadline for the submission of the offers to purchase GSIS' holdings of Equitable-PCI Bank common shares is hereby extended to April 6, 2006.

The invitation to submit the best offer follows:

The GSIS hereby offers in a block sale its holdings of 90,078,333 Equitable-PCI Bank shares, equivalent to 12.4% of the Bank's outstanding capital stock, at a minimum cash offer of P92.00 per share.

Offers to purchase should be accompanied by a cashier's or manager's check equivalent to ten (10%) percent of the total offered price and should be submitted not later than April 6, 2006, 3:00 pm at the following address:

MS. LIVIA ALICIA R. RAMOS
Vice President, Investment Office
Level 3, Core D, GSIS Building
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Interested parties should comply with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) rules and regulations on ownership restrictions in banks, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

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For more information, contact Ms. Ramos at telephone numbers 834-2649 and 891-6161 local 4581.

(Original Signed)
OMELITA J. TIANGCO
Executive Vice President
Finance Sector

ROUND-UP

PNOC prepaying portion of \$175-M loan

STATE-OWNED PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL CO. is set to prepay \$18 million of a \$175-million syndicated credit facility provided by foreign lenders.

Banking sources said PNOC had submitted to the Monetary Board its intention to pay a portion of its debt ahead of maturity.

The credit facility was arranged by Citibank and Standard Chartered Bank.

Sources said PNOC would use portion of its \$550,000 in savings from interest payment in settling its loans.

PNOC was created in 1973 to provide and maintain an adequate and stable supply of oil, focusing its efforts and resources in the petroleum industry. Its charter was later amended to include energy exploration and development. **Doris C. Dumlaog**

Gokongwei airline offers P10 fare

CEBU PACIFIC AIR IS OFFERING A P10 (TEN-PESO) one-way fare to any of its domestic destinations to celebrate its 10th year in the business. The airline started operations on March 8, 1996.

Passengers may buy the tickets only from March 3 to 8—or until seats run out—for use from June 20 to Oct. 18. Over 100,000 seats are available on all of the Gokongwei-owned airline's aircraft for this anniversary seat sale, the company said in a statement.

The P10 one-way fare is exclusive of taxes and surcharges and are available on a first come first

served basis.

Cebu Pacific general manager Bong Mojica said the promo marks a milestone in Philippine aviation history.

"Never before has an airline offered fares this low," he said.

The company's P10 fare can be booked and ticketed through its website, www.cebuair.com. The tickets are also available through the new reservations office at 702-0888 or Cebu Pacific ticket offices and accredited travel agents.

Daxim L. Lucas

TNT unit in RP launches new service

THE LOCAL UNIT OF DUTCH BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS delivery firm TNT International Express has launched a new service that caters to high-value items that need maximum safekeeping amid rising worldwide consciousness on security and the local political turmoil.

Gabriel Raymond G. Patag, TNT Philippines country special services manager, said the service dubbed secured transport service (STS) was aimed at providing clients a secured and safe way of moving security risk packages and commodities in a planned and detailed method at any give

time "to any destination in the country."

"The new service was born out of (need)," Patag said. "The vehicles we use are not like those that banks normally use which are basically identified and common targets."

He said TNT Philippines has initially allotted several trucks which were equipped with technologically advanced security features for the STS although he did not elaborate.

Patag said a detailed security process and procedure checks are undertaken daily before, during, and after deployment of the trucks. **Rommel W. Domingo**

Philrealty ready to settle obligations

PHILIPPINE REALTY AND HOLDINGS CORP. told the Philippine Stock Exchange that it was withdrawing its appeal on the rehabilitation court's adjudication that provided for a combination of dacion en pago arrangement and restructuring of the company's outstanding obligations to Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co./Asian Recovery Corp. (ARC).

After a close review of its operations and financial performance since the issuance of the adjudication on June 11, 2004, Philrealty has decided it would be able to settle its outstanding obligations to Metrobank/ARC.

"The company has thus decided to accept said adjudication," Philrealty said in a statement.

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Challenge #2: Rising from Great Manager to Great Leader. Marcus Buckingham (via special licensed video broadcast, author of management and leadership book "The One Thing You Need to Know", discusses what the world's best managers and leaders do differently.

Challenge #3: Mastering the Keys to Achieving Your Goals. Top PLDT and Smart executive and movie producer Butch Jimenez shares how he sets and achieves his goals with his team.

Challenge #4: Leading Through Adversity with Integrity. Sandy Prieto, CEO of The Philippine Daily Inquirer, shares the challenges of being "bullied" by political powers that threatened to close their business and shares how to get through challenges.

Challenge #5: Discovering the Servant Leader Within. Be inspired with one of UK's youngest millionaire entrepreneurs and now Gawad Kalinga's benefactor, Dylan Wilk, as he shows the strengths he sees in Filipinos and how they can be maximized to turn around the lives of Filipinos and of the country.

Challenge #6: Attitude Adjustments-Going from "Pwede Na!" to Excellence. Rex Resurreccion, best-selling author of "Called to Excel" will challenge participants to rise from the mediocre, pwede-na attitude to an attitude of excellence.

Challenge #7: Life Balance. As a closing session, Francis Kong concludes the seminar by imparting success keys to meet the challenge of multi-tasking, leading our families harmoniously, and making sure we don't miss out on the most important things in life - our relationships.

"We loved it! When is the next one so I can send my entire team?" - Stephen Misa, Microsoft

"Francis Kong continues to be the greatest speaker I know!" - Chi-Chi Lucas, The Coca-Cola Export Corp.

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The Travel Club

BUSINESS

Gov't shrugs off Ayala offer for IS property

By Michelle V. Remo

Outright cash preferred to boost state finances

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE Ayala group are less likely to strike a deal on the sale of a state-owned property in Makati City, which used to house the International School, due to differences in the terms of the sale.

Finance Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr., who monitors the government's privatization program, told reporters that the Ayala group had offered a joint venture arrangement with

the government for the property's development.

"Joint ventures will only be considered if other offers fail. We prefer outright sale because we want cash," Singson said.

Under a joint venture scheme, the government would start generating income from the property only after it has been developed by the winning bidder. An out-

right sale would give the government immediate cash, which it needs to help plug this year's budget deficit.

The 4.8-hectare property is being sold for at least P1.2 billion, or P23,000 per square meter, although the government has expressed willingness to adjust the figure.

The price was largely the rea-

son for the failure of previous attempts to bid out the property. Prospective buyers deemed the tag price too high.

He said the government could afford to treat the Ayalas' offer its last option now that it has received several outright-sale offers from other interested buyers. Singson, however, declined to identify the potential buyers but

said the government's privatization team was now studying all the proposals.

The International School used to own the Makati property but it was later donated to the government by virtue of a decree issued by former President Ferdinand Marcos.

In another development, Singson said the government had

started its search for a financial adviser that would help in the privatization of Al-Amanah Islamic Investment Bank of the Philippines.

Al-Amanah is the only Islamic bank in the country. It was established through the issuance of Republic Act No. 6848 by then President Corason Aquino.

Under the concept of Islamic banking, customers do not earn interests on their deposits but they, as partners, get shares from the profits arising from the bank's investment activities.

A LEISURE STROLL TO Galleria

The Amenity Zone:

Only at East of Galleria

Thompson Wall Whinnery wrote the lyrics to the song "Electric Blue." He could have been referring to Robinsons Land's East of Galleria, a 45-story residential tower for an investment of 88 units or 1 BR unit at this 45-story residential tower, one can totally enjoy a different experience. Complete with an impeccable array of amenities, one can completely wish for.

Any called the Zone by one of the leading innovation in property development, the 4th level was exclusively designed for residents to enjoy and have that total Video 2 Ball Billiards, Pool, Games, WiFi, and a lot of experiences in one. Any day.

A unique combination of choices, including the Condominium Development, Robinsons Land Corporation has made sure that all amenities are modern and on floor for the whole family and friends. In while time and enjoy with a swimming pool, landscaped gardens, fitness center, and much more.

Take a look at the modern game room, which is easily seen. Whinnery designed with wood paneling, leather couch and modern light, here one can find a fully equipped billiards area with a modernized multifunctional table that can easily be used in a variety of ways like Backgammon, Mahjong, and more.

Visit to the two (2) video room, which is easily seen. Whinnery designed with wood paneling, leather couch and modern light, here one can find a fully equipped billiards area with a modernized multifunctional table that can easily be used in a variety of ways like Backgammon, Mahjong, and more.

Knowing the value of family bonding, the difficulty of arranging time and training friends, Robinsons Land made possible a part of the East of Galleria, a 45-story residential tower for an investment of 88 units or 1 BR unit at this 45-story residential tower, one can totally enjoy a different experience. Complete with an impeccable array of amenities, one can completely wish for.

Any called the Zone by one of the leading innovation in property development, the 4th level was exclusively designed for residents to enjoy and have that total Video 2 Ball Billiards, Pool, Games, WiFi, and a lot of experiences in one. Any day.

Get the best of both worlds with the choice of 1 BR, 2BR and 3BR bi-level and loft-type units for as low as P2.2M. As it breathes life, you too can get to the Zone and enjoy the unique amenities it has to offer.

For inquiries, please call Robinsons Land Corporation High-Rise Buildings Division at 636-0888 or 0922-8380888.

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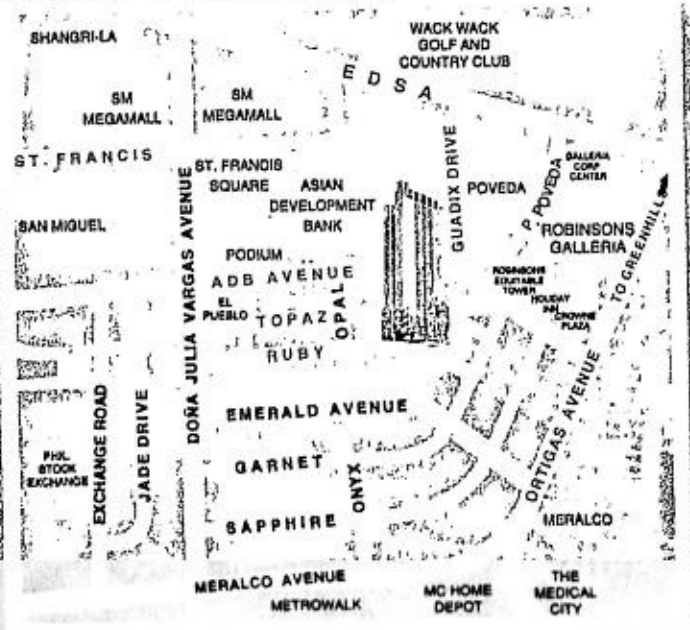
EAST OF GALLERIA

A unique and refreshing lifestyle is now here in the heart of Ortigas Center.

Welcome to East of Galleria, a 45-storey residential tower located in the midst of the bustling business district. It is conveniently located beside the very successful Robinsons Galleria Mall to cater to the residents' daily needs. Minutes away from major roads like EDSA and C-5, it is also within the vicinity of malls, banks, institutions and other major establishments.

East of Galleria truly embodies the ideal of comfort and convenience, offering the best of both worlds with the choice of either bi-level or loft-type units. Available in one, two and three-bedroom units, East of Galleria assures residents of utmost privacy in condo living as the master's bedroom is located a level above the dining, kitchen and living areas. High ceilings, airy atmosphere and expansive glass windows feature breathtaking views of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club as well as a multitude of magnificent skylines.

At the heart of the busy city lies a comfortable and affordable home, here at East of Galleria.



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BUSINESSFriday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Good service best way to beat competition

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THERE ARE MANY WEAPONS retailers use to beat competition and increase profits.

There's coming up with better, more affordable products and services, and capturing the loyalty of old customers and getting new ones by delivering superior customer service.

Business Monday features retail outfits in the Philippines that take customer service seriously.

Gateway Mall

It's "like no other mall in the world."

That's the proud boast of the Araneta group when describing the Gateway mall at the heart of the sprawling Araneta Center in Quezon City.

And visitors of the mall will likely agree.

Some P2.5 billion was spent on construction and development of the five-level retail and entertainment center beside the famous Araneta Coliseum.

But more than the infrastructure, Araneta Center marketing

manager Cecile Marvilla says Gateway is also about superior services, making the mall feel more like a hotel than just a shopping area.

One of the main attractions is the concierge desk. Just like in hotels, the concierge will help shoppers with almost anything they require. They can reserve seats for restaurants, movie tickets and provide directions.

Marvilla says there are plans to make the concierge go a step further and provide personal shopping services to those who want it.

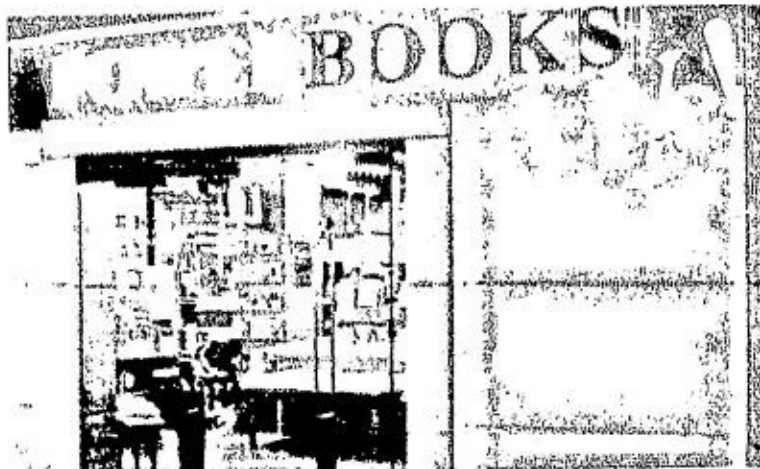
There's valet parking, bright underground parking, granite tiles in the bathrooms.

The efforts to go the extra mile have not been for naught.

Marvilla says the mall attracted the upper crust of Philippine society into the Araneta Center, which has long been associated with the lower to middle-income classes.

Marvilla says customer service had a lot to do with this.

"We at Araneta believe that when you give excellent service, you create goodwill. That makes



AT POWER BOOKS, ambience is everything.

customers come back for more," she says.

Pizza Hut

Filipinos love pizza.

That's why it comes as no surprise that there is a pizza parlor in almost every corner, which means one thing for operators of pizza chain: too much competition.

Given the stiff competition from both local and international pizza chains, Pizza Hut embarked on a major customer service enhancement program last year to

keep its customers loyal and win over new ones.

Lars Peterson, chief operating officer of Pizza Hut in the Philippines, says in an interview that the process actually started more than a year ago when the company set up more stringent criteria for hiring personnel who will serve the customers.

"We try to look for people with a great attitude, a great smile," Peterson says. "We believe we can train everything else, but not the attitude."



AT SIGNAL, sales clerks can give tips on what clothes will suit a customer.

That attitude is brought to the fore through "Customer Mania," a training program for new employees aimed at making them giving the best experience to customers. Refresher courses are provided every quarter.

Improved service was not lost on the customers, as reflected in the 300-percent increase in tips last year, which is in addition to what the service crew earns from

the service charge. Training was complemented by a renovation of the Pizza Hut for that classic, casual dining feel to some 100 restaurants all over the country.

Pizza Hut estimates that 20 percent of the growth was due to old customers spending more and the 80 percent from new customers.

GOOD/B2-4

'We can't afford mass media, so what else can we use to build awareness?'

Q: OURS IS A DIRECT selling business for several categories of consumer goods. Is there any other way or any other media that can increase awareness for our products just

as much as mass media can? Given our size and gross margin, we just can't afford to regularly go TV, radio and/or print.

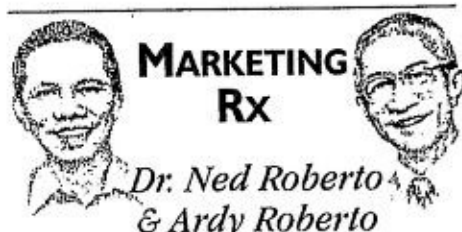
A: Since you're marketing "several consumer product categories" you must also be carrying a number of brands across the categories you're selling. This means that you should also be thinking of awareness for your company, as much as if not more than, for the products and brands you're carrying. So if you want to raise awareness for your direct selling company but can't afford TV, radio or print, why don't you try word-of-mouth (W-o-M)? It's also known as "buzz" media.

Lazarsfeld's opinion leaders

Contrary to most advertisers' current impression that W-o-M is one of the "new" media, this is an old media. It dates back to 50 years ago when the famous Columbia University sociologist and survey research pioneer, Paul Lazarsfeld, first popularized it in the late 40s. He referred to it as personal media specifically in the persons of what he called "opinion leaders." Lazarsfeld is best remembered for his 2-step-flow model of the communication process. Lazarsfeld's extensive studies showed that: "Ideas often flow from radio and print to opinion leaders and from these to the less active sections of the population." Notice that Lazarsfeld refers to radio and print, the two primary media of the 40s and early 50s.

Lazarsfeld showed in his communication studies that it is the opinion leaders' personal relay of the radio and print messages that multiply their audience reach. The mass media are "additive" media while the opinion leaders' W-o-M communication is "multiplicative."

Lazarsfeld's work is still influencing direct marketers like those in your business. His work's advertising implication is simple but



MARKETING
RX

Dr. Ned Roberto
& Ardy Roberto

powerful. It says that if you want your advertisement to cost-effectively reach its target customers, then direct your ad messages to opinion leaders first. Then let these opinion molders pass those mes-

sages on to the rest of the people in their individual communities.

If you think about it, this is what pharmaceutical companies still do in promoting (or "detailing") their ethical prescription products to doctors. The more influential and top-prescribing doctors are detailed first and the campaign relies on these top prescribers to persuade by example or W-o-M other doctors.

This is one of the current versions of Lazarsfeld's model. It regards mass media as dispensable. After all, it's just an additive media. So why not go directly to the multiplicative media: the opinion leaders' W-o-M?

Since Lazarsfeld, W-o-M would go out of fashion but would always resurge. One resurgence and version has added something critical. Jerry Wilson's 1991 book, Word-of-Mouth Marketing, brought it out as an issue asking: "What kind of advertising message will move opinion leaders to give the advertisement the W-o-M push?" It's not just the message. It also includes the ad execution. If either one or both have "conversation value," then opinion leaders will talk to others about it, says Wilson.

There are advertisements that give a conversation value to both their message and execution. Take the case of the McDonald's TV commercial where a baby in a swing alternated between a happy cry (when it saw the yellow golden arch) and an unhappy cry (when the golden arch was no longer visible). The message is clear: "Here's a place to keep your baby happy." When people saw the TV ad they even called family members to watch it. The message's execution dramatized the message with emotional depth.

There can also be an opposite: An ad whose message and/or execution communicate a negative conversation value. Avoid this opposite if you want wholesome quality aware-

WE CAN'T/B2-4



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SUPERIOR LEADERSHIP

Philam Plans continues to be the most trusted name in so far as pre-need sales is concerned. In fact, 1 in every 3 Filipinos entrust the education needs of their children to us. With over 700,000 planholders and growing, Philam Plans forges ahead by providing new and innovative products in education, pension and life. With 70 branches nationwide, we serve the needs of Filipino families today, tomorrow and for all time. We are humbled by your trust in us and recognize the great responsibility you have bestowed on us: the future of the next Filipino generation.

SECURITY AND STABILITY

With more than P19 billion in trust funds, Philam Plans is the bearer of the largest trust fund level in the industry. It also carries the most liquid trust fund with 97% or more than P18 billion of it invested in government securities, cash and other cash equivalents. This fund is more than enough to cover the P600 million projected maturing benefits in 2006 and the rest of its planholder obligations until 2013. You are assured of your future's security with Philam Plans.

STRENGTH

To manifest its confidence in Philam Plans and its long-term prospects for growth in the future, Philamlife, the most trusted name in life insurance for the past 60 years and American International Group (AIG), the world's leading insurance and financial services organization, recently invested another P500 million into the company, raising our paid up capitalization to P700 million. This amount is seven times more than the SEC's minimum requirement. We humbly accept this fiduciary responsibility and shall consistently work on earning the trust of our planholders and the Filipino families.

SERVICE

Philam Plans serves the Filipino nation as we provide hope and a promise of a brighter tomorrow through our pre-need plans. We respond to the call of the times through civic programs such as Gawad Kalinga, the Philippine Cancer Society's Relay for Life and our own various apostolate work. By so doing, we seek to transform the communities we serve. Only last week, our parent company, AIG has released US\$ 50,000 to our brothers and sisters affected by the landslide in Southern Leyte.

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PHILAM PLANS CONQUERING NEW HEIGHTS



Carolina B. Bautista
Top Agency Manager

Alma C. Clariño
Top District Manager

Remedios R. Ignacio
Top Unit Manager

Ronaldo Victorino A. Ignacio
Top Sales Counselor

Concepcion D. Arcena
#1 District Manager
Rising Star

Jesusa C. Juan
#1 Unit Manager
Rising Star

Meet the men and women who propel us ever upward in our
Continuing Quest for Greater Realms!

Top 10 Agency Managers



1st Place
Carolina B. Bautista
C. B. Bautista & Associates
Manila South 1 Region



2nd Place
Federico M. Paragas, Jr.
F. M. Paragas & Associates
OFMO



3rd Place
Amelia S. Yap
Nickel Agency
Mindanao 1 Region



4th Place
Francisco N. Cervantes, Jr.
F. N. Cervantes & Associates
Alternative Distribution



5th Place
Aurelio M. Clariño
Clariño & Associates
Manila South 8 Region



6th Place
Danilo L. Mercado
Mercado & Associates
Manila North 3 Region



7th Place
Rodrick S. De Leon
R. S. De Leon & Associates
Alternative Distribution



8th Place
Allan G. Tuazon
A. G. Tuazon & Associates
Luzon 4-A Region



9th Place
Francisco B. Bautista
F. B. Bautista & Associates
Luzon 5-A Region



10th Place
Adolfo C. Remo
A.C. Remo & Associates
Manila North 2 Region

Top 5 District Managers



1st Place
Alma C. Clariño
Clariño & Associates
Manila South 8 Region



2nd Place
Eric T. Bautista
F. B. Bautista & Associates
Luzon 5-A Region



3rd Place
Angelina S. Bautista
A. A. Bautista & Associates
Luzon 4-A Region



4th Place
Grace M. Remo
A. C. Remo & Associates
Manila North 2 Region



5th Place
Concepcion D. Arcena
Santiago & Associates
Manila North 7 Region

Top 10 Unit Managers



1st Place
Remedios R. Ignacio
C. B. Bautista & Associates
Manila South 1 Region



2nd Place
Felly F. Ayate
F. N. Cervantes & Associates
Alternative Distribution



3rd Place
Arthur V. Ty
Mercado & Associates
Manila North 3 Region



4th Place
Cassandro S. Dumayas
Dumayas & Associates
Luzon 2 Region



5th Place
Ruena F. Guevara
Clariño & Associates
Manila South 8 Region



6th Place
Rolando L. Almanzor
Almanzor & Associates
Manila South 8 Region



7th Place
Jesusa C. Juan
Mercado & Associates
Manila North 3 Region



8th Place
Vilma F. Paragas
F. M. Paragas & Associates
OFMO



9th Place
Mira D. Lacorte
Castel & Associates
Manila South 8 Region



10th Place
Medelyn P. Gutierrez
R.G. Santos & Associates
Manila North 7 Region

Top 10 Sales Counselors



1st Place
Ronaldo A. Ignacio
C. B. Bautista & Associates
Manila South 1 Region



2nd Place
Jose Jericho B. Fernandez
F. N. Cervantes & Associates
Alternative Distribution



3rd Place
Shirley E. Pineda
Mercado & Associates
Manila North 3 Region



4th Place
Tristan S. Dumayas
Dumayas & Associates
Luzon 2 Region



5th Place
Manuel Brian L. Bellesza
F. N. Cervantes & Associates
Alternative Distribution



6th Place
Michael D.G. Mira
F. N. Cervantes & Associates
Alternative Distribution



7th Place
Virginia A. Dagandan
Martin & Associates
Manila North 2 Region



8th Place
Alice G. Bangha-on
Albaran & Associates
Manila South 5 Region



9th Place
Salvador F. Jose
Almanzor & Associates
Manila South 8 Region



10th Place
Criselda L. Nery
C. B. Bautista & Associates
Manila South 1 Region

RISING STARS AWARDS District Managers



Concepcion D. Arcena
Santiago & Associates
Manila North 7 Region



Lucy R. Zarate
A.C. Remo & Associates
Manila North 2 Region



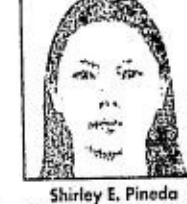
Clorlene B. Rivera
C. B. Bautista & Associates
Manila South 1 Region



Jesusa C. Juan
Mercado & Associates
Manila North 3 Region



Vilma F. Paragas
F. M. Paragas & Associates
OFMO



Shirley E. Pineda
Mercado & Associates
Manila North 3 Region



Dionisio P. Cordora
F. D. Parreno & Associates
Visayas 5 Region



Jesus Fernan C. Abarrantos
Luayon & Associates
Manila South 1 Region



Miriam C. Cruz
Mercado & Associates
Manila North 3 Region



Samuel H. Rivera
Mercado & Associates
Manila North 3 Region

PRESIDENT'S HONOR CORPS

Agency Manager



Francisco N. Cervantes, Jr.
F. N. Cervantes & Associates
Alternative Distribution

District Managers



Alma C. Clariño
Clariño & Associates
Manila South 8 Region



Grace M. Remo
A. C. Remo & Associates
Manila North 2 Region



Eric T. Bautista
F. B. Bautista & Associates
Luzon 5-A Region

Unit Manager



Felly F. Ayate
F. N. Cervantes & Associates
Alternative Distribution

Sales Counselors



Jose Jericho B. Fernandez
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PHILAM PLANS
Kapitid, Kapanalig, Kaagapay sa Magandang Kinabukasan.

BUSINESS Friday

Good service ...

From page B2-1

Peterson says Pizza Hut is also working on improving the delivery and take-out businesses, which is part of the country's biggest chain's efforts to stay on top.

"Improving service is like a journey without an end. We have to be better because our competition is also getting better," Peterson adds.

Power Books

If bookstores in the Philippines will be judged based solely on the titles, then there is not much room for differentiation as almost all stores carry the same line of books.

So what then does the customer look for in a bookstore for him to decide to buy the book there over the next one round the corner?

Power Books Specialty Store thought about that question long and hard, and one of the answers it came up with was customer service, which it defines as taking good care of the customer.

According to Power Books general manager Maximo Gabriel Licaucio, the key for the company is to create an environment where customers will want to come in, browse and hopefully buy a book.

This explains the deliberate display of the books where best sellers are placed nearest the entrance so customers can immediately get hold of the hottest selling items.

There are computer terminals installed for buyers to look up their favorite titles without going through the shelves. They can even check the supply from other stores, in case the title is sold out in another.

New titles are also prominently displayed, as well as the recommended titles by the six Power Books stores.

The sales people are also trained enough so they can easily respond to questions, and even recommend related titles.

Licaucio adds that Power Books offers an ordering service for its customers. They will simply fill out the form with the title they want, and they can expect delivery in about three weeks, at less the cost of buying the book from Amazon.

For those with really hectic schedules, Power Books can deliver the books for free within Metro Manila as long as the value of the books meet the minimum requirement of P1,200.

He says these efforts are part of Power Books' vision to get more Filipinos to read.

"Our ultimate goal is to increase literacy in the Philippines," he says.

The Travel Club

For The Travel Club, it is not its line of premium luggage from Victorinox, Samsonite and Ace that is the most important thing in

the store outlets. It's the customer.

This is why the country's biggest retail chain that sells luggage takes great pain to provide excellent customer relations, says The Travel Club marketing manager Gem Tullao-Atienza.

To keep customers loyal, The Travel Club offers marketing incentives such as special discounts, promotions and free gifts to make them feel special.

For the staff, The Travel Club provides training called Branded Customer Experience.

The objective is to help the staff identify and describe the customers' needs and expectations for them to provide the appropriate service.

Atienza says it makes sense for the company to ensure quality customer service because it does reflect on the bottom line.

Atienza says there are many things a customer looks for in customer service.

These include: credibility, professionalism, product knowledge, problem-solving skills, presentation skills, negotiating skills and knowledge of market data.

Atienza says that it is because of customer service that The Travel Club has been in business for over 14 years, and has become the main one-stop shop for quality bags and luggage.

Signal

For the Signal Fashion Specialty Store, customers are everything.

"They keep the line going, so we take customer service very seriously," says Udsie Rosario-Villarica, one of Signal's owners.

Serving their needs means providing customers with new styles about five times a year and giving them advice on what clothes will look best on them.

Villarica says that by keeping a close watch on what the customers want, Signal is better able to come up with new styles to cater to the needs of their market, which they define as the career woman, who wants to dress well, but are still price conscious.

Since they want to dress well, Villarica says Signal makes it a point to only manufacture limited number of pieces per style, to minimize the chances of customers bumping into each other on the road wearing the same clothes.

Signal also keeps track of prime customers, for whom the store can arrange special fitting sessions.

She says it is only by going the extra mile to provide good service that fashion stores like hers can outlast the competition, especially in the Philippines where there's stiff competition in the fashion industry in particular, and the retail industry in general.

What's in store for Pana in 2006?

(Condensed speech of Blen Fernando, 2006 Pana president)

WHENEVER AN AFFAIR AS PRESTIGIOUS as an induction to the office of a president or chairman occurs, I notice that the audience almost always waits in anticipation for some earthshaking announcement. Such was my experience during the recently concluded induction ceremony of the officers and board of directors of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) for 2006 where I, once again, was privileged to have been entrusted the top position. Unfortunately, I had no earthshaking announcement simply because I felt that there was no need for one. I preferred to focus on one ordinary and simple goal that I hope would bring about extraordinary changes within the organization. That goal is to continue strengthening the Philippine Association of National Advertisers.

Not too long ago, the Pana board held its annual planning session. This session allowed us to have a realistic view of the prevailing business conditions. Many markets are now declining as consumers downsize, reduce or eliminate consumption, advertisers keep on searching for means to stretch and spend their advertising monies wisely, and new media for business communications are openly available. Amid these factors, the board felt the need to further strengthen the organization so that its members, the advertisers, can run their businesses more effectively, and in turn, serve their customers—the consumers.

The board named three main areas where the organization needs to be strengthened:

First, is the need to further reinforce the backbone of Pana—its administration. We saw the need to continue improving the people, process, and systems of the organization. We need to look at a "hotel" mindset as we train the staff toward excellent membership service. We look at the computerization of the accounting and manpower appraisal systems, the membership database, and the library of information. And we need to look at a more dynamic and contemporary website that will include links to the member companies, providing assistance to their queries.

Second, is the need to continue to help develop future leaders in the industry through some of the organization's educational programs, seminars, and workshops such as the Pana convention, the membership and sectoral meetings and the mini-planning sessions with other industry groups. Hopefully, these functions can serve as opportunities for our members to see how they can come up with methods on how to further improve their businesses amidst the present state of the environment.

And last, is the need to continue to involve Pana in industry developments. Pana believes that its mother organization, the AdBoard, is, and remains to be the most objective and competent implementing body for self-regulation in advertising content. Therefore, the organiza-

tion pledges to remain active and participative in all decisions related to its Advertising Content Regulation Committee (ACRC), its panelists, and in the review of the Advertising Code of Ethics. Pana will continue recruiting and training only the best for this committee.

On the other hand, the organization's advocacy and industry relations are best left to its arm, the Pana Foundation (Panaf). This year, the goal of the foundation is to further help the advertising industry through the annual integrated marketing communications student competition. This competition is perhaps the biggest student competition in the country attracting more than 1,000 students in attendance as contestants from many schools within Metro Manila.

Also, the foundation aims to have a speaker's bureau at the disposal of schools requesting for presentations and talks about Pana.

Pana has now been included in some educational tours of students coming from the provinces as far as Tuguegarao.

The Pana Foundation, under its own board of trustees, also has for its members not only current Pana company representatives but even former Pana members and officers who have retired from corporate world and have gone into their own businesses. These are a pool of talents worth tapping.

So, for many of us in the 2006 board who are in their concluding term as Pana officers, we hope that we will be able to bring about nothing less than what the organization deserves.

'We can't afford mass...

From page B2-1

ness. You saw this opposite in the billboard ad "Nakatikim ka na ba ng quince anos?" ("Have you tasted a 15-year old?") The ad message and execution in this case built high awareness. But the distasteful quality of the awareness it created is not exactly the kind of awareness you'd want for your company.

Gladwell's connectors, and salesmen

There are other issues to tackle in using the W-o-M media. "Who exactly are these W-o-M communicating opinion leaders?" In Malcolm Gladwell's first best-selling book, *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, three categories of

opinion molders were identified: The Connectors, the Mavens, and the Salesmen.

• The Connectors are the networkers. They know a lot of people and have a big social network. They start spreading the 'news.' Where do they get this 'news?' They get this from the Mavens.

• The Mavens are people who accumulate knowledge. They have the inside scoop on the marketplace and disseminate that information on their own. They like initiating discussions on "different products and prices or places." They are "educators" and information brokers but not persuaders. They do help start word-of-mouth but for a "social epidemic to start

... some people are going to have to be persuaded to do something," says Gladwell. Enter the "Salesmen" or the persuaders.

• The Salesmen are the select few who persuade people who are unconvinced-and "they are the critical to the tipping of word-of-mouth epidemics."

Still another issue is: "Are opinion leaders' W-o-M communications always face-to-face?" In the 40s and 50s, opinion leaders resorted also to an "ear-to-ear" W-o-M channel via the telephone and the "finger-to-eye" channel, i.e., the telegram. Today, these two channels have been replaced with the more powerful "text-to-text" channel (the mobile phone's killer

application's SMS) and the "mouse-to-mouse" channel (the e-mail).

Brands suited for W-o-M marketing

Does W-o-M or Buzz work effectively for all product categories? Not equally. It's most suited for some and less for others. There are two categories where it's most appropriate because W-o-M has the most credibility and risk reducing media property in their purchase. The first of these is products that are expensive and infrequently bought. Consumers find themselves seeking more information and reassurances from friends and experts in the buying decision.

For your type of business, direct sales, is the most apt for word-of-mouth advertising. If your direct sellers or agents are not spreading the news about your products, then you must examine two things: First, are you creating opportunities-like product sales rallies-where they could start giving testimonials? Your sales agents should also be product users in order for them to share stories about your products to other potential agents or customers. Second, is what Gladwell calls the "stickiness" factor. Ask yourself. Are your brand features or benefits "sticky" enough to be talked about and passed on from one person to the next? If your product or brand doesn't create a positive experience that sticks to your customers' minds, then it won't be worth being passed around by word-of-mouth.

E-mail questions to MarketingRx@pdltd-SL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF KEPPEL PHILIPPINES MARINE, INC.

All holders of shares of common stock of Keppel Philippines Marine, Inc. (respectively, the "Shareholders" and "KPM") are hereby notified that on 27 February 2006, KS Investments Pte. Ltd. ("the Bidder") filed a Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code. The Bidder, which is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Republic of Singapore, intends to acquire 70.529% or 1,406,665,058 common shares of KPM.

The Tender Offer shall commence at 10:00 a.m. on 1 March 2006, and end at 4:00 p.m. on 28 March 2006 (the "Tender Offer Period"). Common shares of KPM to be tendered (the "Subject Shares"), if any, are intended to be crossed on the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") on 6 April 2006 (the "Cross Date") subject to PSE approval. Should any of the business days during the period from 1 March 2006, the commencement of the Tender Offer Period and 6 April 2006, the Cross Date, inclusive, be officially declared a non-working holiday after the filing of the Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1) on 27 February 2006, the period shall be extended by the number of business days corresponding to those which were declared as non-working holidays.

The purchase price for the acquisition of the Subject Shares is Php 1.00 for each share (the "Tender Offer Price"). Payments shall be in Philippine Pesos and in the form of manager's checks drawn against ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Paying Agent"). ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners, Inc., the Financial Adviser to the Bidder, has certified that the Bidder has sufficient resources, including cash, to satisfy full acceptance of the Tender Offer. The Bidder has allocated Pp1,406,665,058 in cash for this purpose. The Bidder intends to pay the tendered and accepted Subject Shares on the 10th trading day after the close of the Tender Offer Period. Payments for the tendered and accepted Subject Shares shall be made available by the Paying Agent for pick up by the tendering Shareholders after 9:00 a.m. on 11 April 2006 assuming the shares are crossed on the Cross Date.

Every Shareholder of KPM who holds stock certificates ("Scrip Shareholders") should submit within the Tender Offer Period their duly endorsed stock certificates and the duly accomplished Application together with the following requirements to ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Depository"), 17th Floor, Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone No. (63-2) 849-8888 (Contact Person: Nilaida S. Enriquez):

If you are a CORPORATE SHAREHOLDER, please submit the following:

1. Certified true copies of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the shareholder and latest amendments thereof.
2. A notarized Secretary's Certificate substantially in the form prescribed by the Bidder setting forth resolutions of the tendering shareholder's Board of Directors authorizing the tender and sale of the Company's Subject Shares and designating the signatories for the purpose.
3. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signatures of its authorized signatories validated by the Corporate Secretary and verified by its broker (the name of the broker and the broker's signatory must be specified) or officer of the bank (the name of the bank and the bank's officer must be specified) where it is maintaining an account.

If you are an INDIVIDUAL SHAREHOLDER, please submit the following:

1. Two (2) valid identification cards containing the photo and specimen signature of the shareholder.
2. For shareholders acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized Special Power of Attorney substantially in the form prescribed by the Bidder (N.B. Endorsement of stock certificate/s must be made by the shareholder himself).
3. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the shareholder and verified by his broker (the name of the broker and the broker's signatory must be specified) or officer of the bank (the name of the bank and the bank's officer must be specified) where he is maintaining an account.

For the convenience of Scrip Shareholders based in Visayas and Mindanao, the Subject Shares may be tendered by submitting the foregoing requirements at the Cebu and Davao branch offices of the Depository no later than 21 March 2006.

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (Cebu Branch)
Room 206, Cebu Holdings Center
Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
Telephone No.: (63) (32) 231-1324
Contact Person: Cheryl M. Lim-Go

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (Davao Branch)
Dr. #7 M.T. Aquino Building, Cabaguio Avenue
corner Bolcan Street, Davao City
Telephone No.: (63) (82) 224-2860
Contact Person: Miguel Luis R. Aquino

After said dates, Scrip Shareholders in Visayas and Mindanao may tender their respective Subject Shares only with the Depository's head office in Makati City.

The Depository will submit the share certificates for validation to KPM's Stock Transfer Agent, Securities Transfer Services, Inc., c/o Mr. Antonio R. Galvez, 4th floor Benpres Building, Exchange Road corner Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, tel. (632) 449-6155 or (632) 449-6168. Defective applications (e.g., with discrepancy between the specimen signatures on file and the endorsement) must be corrected within the Tender Offer Period to avoid being rejected by the Bidder. Hence, Shareholders are strongly urged against tendering at the last minute to allow sufficient time to correct any deficiency in their application. Shareholders are also urged to indicate their telephone numbers in their respective application forms to allow the Depository to inform them immediately of any deficiency in their applications.

Tendering Shareholders whose shares are lodged with the Philippine Central Depository Nominee Corporation ("PCD") ("Scripless Shareholders") should instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their shares to ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Broker") for receipt by the Broker prior to 4:00 p.m. of March 28, 2006. The Broker shall hold the tendered common shares only as custodian for said shares. Tendering Shareholders shall have the right to withdraw any tendered shares at any time during the Tender Offer Period. For a withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by the Depository (for Scrip Shareholders) or by the Broker (for Scripless Shareholders) before 4:00 p.m. of March 28, 2006.

Copies of SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by Shareholders from the Depository/Broker at their addresses stated above. For inquiries about the Bidder or the Tender Offer, please contact Ms. Nilaida Enriquez of the Depository at its address set forth earlier in this letter.

(PDI-March 1, 2 & 3, 2006)



Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF FLUORESCENT LIGHTING FIXTURES FOR PEZA BUILDING

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of Pnp 2,279,984.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Fluorescent Lighting System for PEZA Building Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply of labor and materials (new lighting fixtures including energy saving fluorescent lamp and electronic ballast) technical supervision, technical expertise consumables and tools for 458 sets of Troler type recess mounted fluorescent lighting fixtures. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary sealed bids na as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 5184 (R.A. 5184), as well as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be inspected and/or purchased by interested Bidders from 2: February to 10 March 2006 Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Pnp 2,000.00 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPIS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 16 March 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 29 March 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.0% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 29 March 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
10. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
E-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website: www.peza.gov.ph

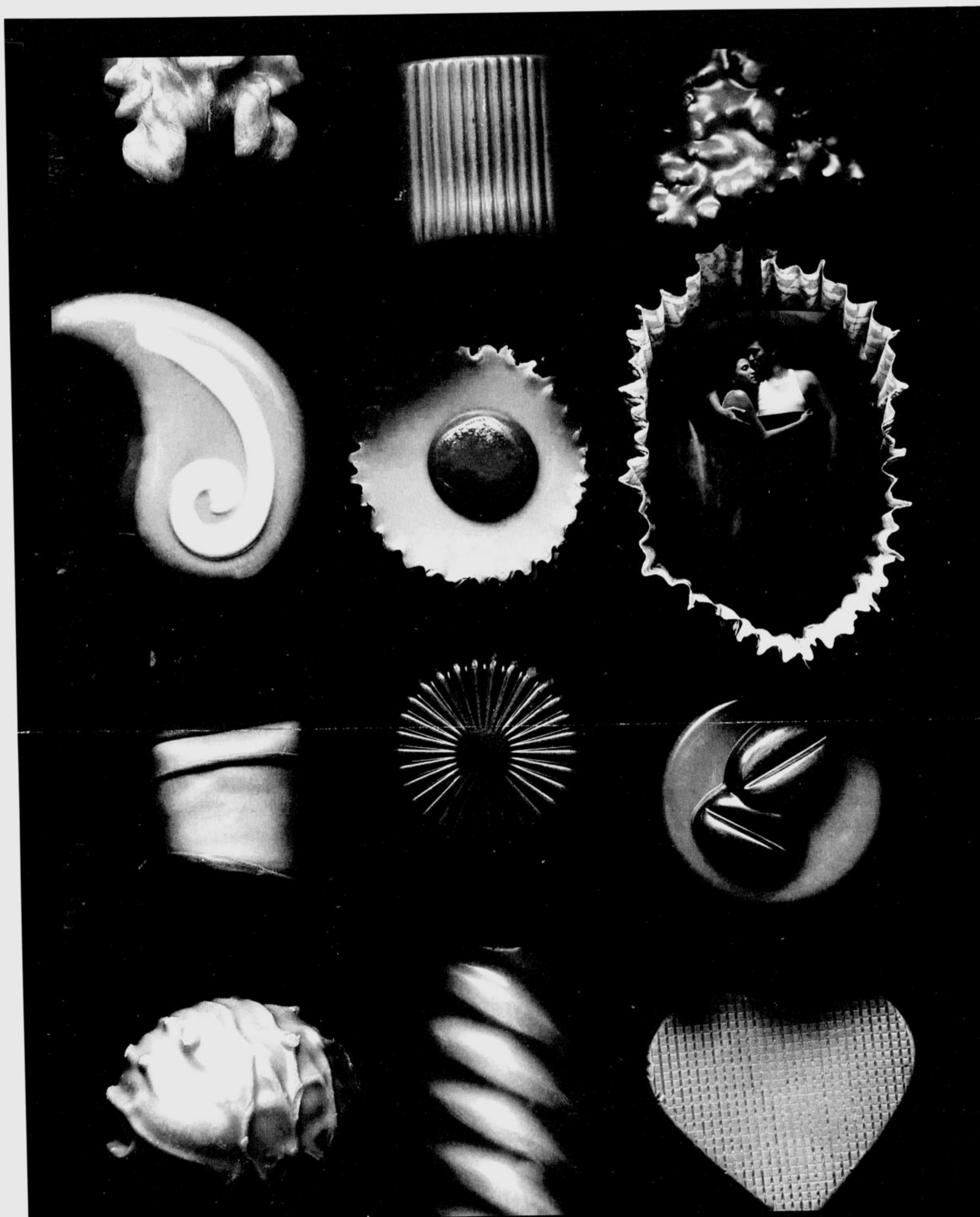
THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI)-Feb. 24 & March 3, 2006

BUSINESSFriday

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March 3, 2006



***The sweet life has never been so tempting.** Ayala Land Premier. The new name for the top-end developments of Ayala Land providing security, ultimate comfort and privacy. It embodies Ayala Land's trademark legacy of enhancing the customers' quality of life with its portfolio of prime locations and trophy addresses. With its superior customer care and property management, Ayala Land Premier ensures exclusivity and value over time. We trust you don't really have an appetite for anything less.*

YK AyalaLandPREMIER



AYALA HEIGHTS CEBU excellent masterplanning made real



AYALA GREENFIELD'S ESTATES 18-hole golf course against the grandness of nature

Ayala Land Premier: The high-end developer of choice

There are those for whom quality of home life will always be top priority. People of distinction who look for similarly well-appointed abodes, and will wisely pay a premium for premium addresses that place them at the very lap of luxury. Each home has to have a sustained sense of exclusivity, security, comfort and privacy --- a standard of living that not only retains but also creates value over time.

In the Philippines, Ayala Land, with its unmatched track record in creating only the most reputable and valued communities and condominium developments in the country, now further strengthens its distinction of being the first, full-line real estate developer to meet the needs of discerning homeowners with the formation of Ayala Land Premier.

Ayala Land Premier will continue the legacy of years of premium residences, set amidst equally prime locations, giving only the best and most luxurious options in real estate. Innovatively designed and exceptionally engineered, with first class amenities, wide spacious areas and exquisitely detailed accents, ALP developments are true testaments to what constitutes high quality living.

ALP also extends an excellent brand of service and care that's consistent from the point of sale to long after property turnover, thus ensuring a superior yet unobtrusive lifestyle for all. In ALP homes, residents wake up to an atmosphere that's constantly new; to freshly cut grass, neatly trimmed hedges, brightly glowing lamps, state-of-the-art security, and other essential nuances of aesthetics, convenience and safety so well taken care of they escape daily notice. It forms part of an effortless world of convenience and comfort that people in the know truly appreciate and value.

Indeed, in each of ALP's master-planned residences, everything is in its place, and the house-proud are welcomed by an environment so worry-free all they have to do is enjoy the experience --- truly the standard for all high-end, high quality properties.

What's new on the Premier menu

Ayala Land Premier's extensive list of exciting, new master-planned communities situated within equally prime residential and commercial areas offers a wide range of luxurious options, from high-rise condominiums with breathtaking views to suburban environments awash in beautiful landscapes. This year, 13 innovatively designed communities have made it to the Premier list, further affirming ALP's status as the sole developer of choice among the discerning affluent market. And with the construction of several of its premium quality projects underway, ALP is looking forward to accomplishing an even more extensive list of milestones for the first half of the year.

In Makati City, considered by many as the Philippines' financial and commercial hub, ALP has erected three high-rise condominiums just a few steps away from several business and shopping centers. Ideal for the cosmopolitan lifestyle, these vertical residences offer the prospective client graduated levels of luxury --- from One Legazpi Park's exceptionally designed and engineered units, to The Residences at Greenbelt's tastefully furnished and towering abodes, and finally to One Roxas Triangle's expansive areas of plush living space. Already, The Residences at Greenbelt has completed its ceremonial top-off for the Laguna Tower and is expected to launch Tower 3 in June. Also, ALP expects to finish the construction of One Legazpi Park during the first quarter.

Those seeking a more suburban lifestyle can find their space in The Legacy at Montgomery Place, an exclusive enclave of single-detached units along E. Rodriguez Avenue. ALP will turn over The Legacy at Montgomery Place to unit owners in March. It will also open up soon newly constructed phases at Ferndale Homes, a Mediterranean-inspired subdivision in Quezon City.

ALP's other developments include Ayala Southvale Village's Sonera, a quaint, prime residential development within the Alabang complex; Ayala Northpoint, a premier residential address in Bacolod; and Ayala Heights Cebu, Ayala Land's first high-end residential subdivision project in the Queen City of the South. Sonera's Village Green, Ayala Northpoint's retail strip including a gas station and convenience store, and Ayala Heights Cebu's clubhouse will all be launched during second quarter of the year.



AMARA the harbour of your dreams

THE RESIDENCES AT GREENBELT
being at the center of it all



THE LEGACY AT MONTGOMERY PLACE
classic charm, Southern comfort, timeless elegance



ONE LEGAZPI PARK warm, contemporary, comfortable

Then there's One Serendra, a unique, sprawling, low to medium-rise garden condominium complex at Bonifacio Global City, which merges modern expediency with the graces of a vast and airy suburbia. In a class of its own, One Serendra offers its dwellers the unparalleled luxury of big unit sizes, wide open spaces and first class features, with its themed gardens and country club-like amenities such as an exclusive spa. ALP is preparing to launch One Serendra and open up its Section D to unit owners in March.

ALP has likewise initiated construction of several exclusive residential subdivisions that allow residents to truly escape from it all. Whether they involve several acres of putting green, vast expanses of ocean, long stretches of rolling hills, a selection of fruit orchards or even a lighthouse, the extraordinary experiences one may get from Anvaya Cove in Bataan, Ayala Westgrove Heights in Cavite, Ayala Greenfield Estates in Laguna and Amara's beautiful seaside community in Cebu can all serve as testaments to ALP's commitment to meaningful and high quality living that goes beyond all expectations. Prospective dwellers will be happy to know that new phases of Ayala Westgrove Heights will be launched in March; a beach-viewing activity at Anvaya Cove and the groundbreaking of Amara's clubhouse will occur in April; and the official public launch of Ayala Greenfield Estates' much anticipated Golf Villas will take place in June. Yet, these are only a few among a series of exciting activities that will make life more exciting for homeowners and residents at the growing Ayala Land Premier projects.

Indeed the Philippines' first, full-line high-end real estate developer has pulled out all the stops for its discerning clients. With a standard of quality and service unparalleled in the industry, all of Ayala Land Premier's residences guarantee its residents a sustained sense of exclusivity, comfort, security and privacy, ensuring worry-free living and value for years to come. And with so many anticipated milestones, Ayala Land Premier is confident of maintaining its status as a testament to what constitutes genuine quality living, poised to deliver each home and unit as promised and on time.



AYALA SOUTHVILLE VILLAGE, SONERA borderless bliss and open spaces



FERNDAL HOMES breathing space in the North

Living The Premier Life

You believe in the good life, and simply live and breathe it. You enjoy the softest sheets, a reliable mechanical wristwatch, the quietest but strongest automobile engine, and fresh flowers in every room of your house. You indulge in a luxury of space that only you understand. At the end of the day, you always look for the best, and pay a little extra to enjoy the best.

Luxury for you is life's simple but important pleasures, like personal space, recreation and time with loved ones. It's pampering, rejuvenation, and comfort after a hard day's work. Luxury is the freedom to enrich your mind, your body, your soul. Luxury is not having to worry about the little things, so you can focus on the bigger ones.

You're discerning and demanding. You take nothing less from what life has to offer. You value convenience and personal space. Yet you also recognize that amidst today's fast and hectic lifestyles, it's nearly impossible to have both. You know that if you are to continue living as living ought to be, you'd have to find your own spot of peace and privacy. Fortunately, you know exactly where to go.

Ayala Land Premier provides premium residences in exclusive locations giving you some of the best and most luxurious options in real estate. ALP merges high quality spaces with unparalleled after sales service, effectively placing its clients within their own comfortable sanctuary of free living.

From first class condominiums that give you spectacular views of cosmopolitan skylines, to comfortable abodes in some of Asia's most breathtaking suburban landscapes, to architecturally superior rest houses a few meters away from a sparkling ocean, ALP's developments guarantee its residents a sustained sense of exclusivity, enjoyment, security and privacy.

Moreover, it's innovatively designed and exceptionally engineered communities are located in equally prime locations, where the chance to interact with thriving business and lifestyle hubs further enhance quality of life. Best of all, ALP's one-of-a-kind brand of service, extended long after any property has been turned over, ensures that your home will continue to meet a Premier standard of living for years to come.



AYALA NORTHPOINT a taste of the sweet life



ONE SERENDRA enjoy the luxury of space and greenery in the city

Your lifestyle, your choices

Single and blessed. Young, driven, ambitious. You wake up early, attend a string of meetings, engage in aggressive boardroom debates and confidently close deals during the day. However, you still have the energy to work out after office and even party later in the night.

Regular travels around the world are growing more frequent. In spite of that, you begin thinking of getting your own place. It would be great to have your own space.

Naturally, you won't settle for anything less than a residence that reflects your taste and lifestyle. Your abode should be cozy enough for you yet spacious enough to accommodate friends for a weekend lunch or dinner. There should also be enough room for your state-of-the-art entertainment system and vast collection of books, CDs and DVDs. Not to mention, of course, your fashion artillery.

In choosing your home, a place that offers full amenities is a primary consideration. A gym and fitness center where you won't have to queue for the treadmill, a coffee shop where you can grab a quick sip and bite, a swimming pool where you can dip when a trip to the beach won't fit the schedule are just some of the essentials you demand.

Of course, you also want to be connected to the central business district, preferably one that allows you to walk to your meetings when traffic is at a gridlock. And, most importantly, you want to have a place which, when you're away, you are confident will be safe and secure.

Because you choose to live a fast-paced life in a highly competitive corporate world, you want all the comfort and security of knowing everything works to your convenience outside the workplace.

A changing lifestyle

In a few years time, your life as a driven and competitive individual will change. You will find someone special to spend the rest of your life with and, eventually, have kids who will give you a new perspective in life.

Young couples strive to ensure that the family lives a comfortable and worry-free life. They show intensity at work but at the end of the day, they transform into caring parents who always look forward to coming home to cuddle their little angel.

Their ideal house is one that is spacious enough to accommodate the couple and a kid or two, a family room to allow the child play space in toddler years and, of course, a room for yaya.



ONE ROXAS TRIANGLE the height of luxury living



With work and family taking up their time, a sense of security is a primordial concern for the couple knowing that the home is well taken care of and anything needed is conveniently within reach. Commercial centers with specialty shops will come in handy when the wife needs to replenish the pantry or when the husband has to find replacement for a broken tool. It is always a great relief when school is nearby so they won't have to worry about their child's travel time.

There is more than enough time and space for recreation and leisure activities. Gardens for outdoor barbecues, swimming pools for a refreshing dip, social halls for birthday parties and game rooms for adults to enjoy. Just some pleasures everyone wants to have easy access to.

Growing old gracefully

You've worked hard, had your own family, and reared your kids into the bright and sophisticated men and women they have become. Now that you have reached the prime of your life, you and your spouse want to take things slow and live an easy life. No more kids to send to school. No more recitals or athletic meets.

Good to know that you belong to the generation of couples who grow old gracefully. Having earned a new kind of independence, you keep an active life and savor more of the good things in life. Some wine and dine yet remain physically fit. Host a regular weekend lunch of gourmet food for the children and grandchildren. Others rediscover old hobbies. The wife can go back to gardening while men play all the golf they want. All whilst enjoying the fresh air and oneness with nature.

With each sip of champagne or a leisurely bite of truffle, take even more comfort in your newfound peace of mind. Revel in a home that allows you not just to indulge your senses, but also your soul. Relax, recharge, renew. Nurture your relationships and lend your time. Because with Ayala Land Premier, living life to the fullest just got much easier.



Thinking of moving? Think Ayala Land Premier. Whether located amidst rolling hills and orchards, or in skyscraping cosmopolitan towers, awe-inspiring seaside getaways, Ayala Land Premier properties offer privacy, ultimate comfort and security found nowhere else in the real estate world. Backed by Ayala Land's mark of enhancing the quality of life of customers, Ayala Land Premier ensures exclusivity and value over time with its superior customer care and property management. It is the newest name for splendid living. The only wrong move you could make is to not pay a visit today.

LIFESTYLE

sms feed: 1111 or age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MO

TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOO

Triple threat

Bench Body's newest model sings, acts and poses.
And she's also one of Asia's Charlie's Angels

HELLO, Charlie.
Qu Yin, one of Asia's
Charlie's Angels,
in some of Bench
Body's newest
pieces

BIG COMEBACK. Although Qu Yin took a break from modeling, she faced the cameras with ease.

By Pam Pastor

QU YIN, ONE OF CHINA'S HOTTEST model-actress-singers (okay, stars), was in town recently to do a photo shoot for Bench Body's new campaign in China.

"I chose Qu Yin because she's popular in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. She's a recording artist and actress for both movies and television. She also topped the survey we conducted in China. She's known even in the remote areas over there. And she carries our products well," said Ben Chan, CEO of Bench.

Born in Hunan, China, Qu Yin had always harbored a love for performing. Since childhood, she has dreamt of being a star. Perhaps it was the influence of her parents—her mother was an ethnic dancer and her father an ethnic singer. "It just came naturally," she said in her native tongue.

Although she was also athletic as a teenager and was active in track and field, she followed her mother's footsteps and studied at the Hunan Province Performance School for Theater. After graduating, she joined The Hunan Province Theater Company. It was there that she faced her first setback. She was told she was too tall for acting. But, smart girl that she is, she found a way around the roadblock.

"I ventured into modeling instead and waited until I was successful before I tried acting."

The detour worked—today Qu Yin has over 10 movies and also a number of TV shows under her belt. Her role in Zhang Yimou's "Keep Cool" gained her international respect. And in 2001, she became part of the television series "Charlie's Angels-Asian Version."

Qu Yin didn't stop at acting. She has recorded five albums in the pop, jazz and techno categories. "I write my own songs as well," she said. She is especially proud of her last album, "Chain Reaction."

"I was given creative freedom. We used a lot of my ideas," she said.

Professional

Because her biggest passions are acting and singing, Qu Yin abandoned modeling for a time. But Bench Body changed her mind and made her want to stand before still cameras again. "Bench Body is doing well in China. I'm familiar with their products. I like their changing fashion," she said.

At the photo shoot, it was not obvious that Qu Yin had taken a break from modeling. She faced the cameras with the ease and the skill of a professional and moved between outfit changes quickly and gracefully.

But does she find posing in her underwear difficult? She smiled and shook her head, saying that a previous role that required her to wear little in front of the cameras had prepared her.

No doubt about it, Qu Yin takes her job seriously. It's a responsibility, she said. "Whether it's singing or acting, I always make sure I'm doing my job well. I always challenge myself to make it better."

To relax, Qu Yin reads books, listens to music, watches movies and goes online. But this triple threat isn't looking for a timeout since she obviously enjoys her work. "I like what I'm doing. It's a lot of fun. I like meeting new people, I like going to different places."

It was Qu Yin's first time in Manila and, sadly, she didn't have enough time to explore the city. "My attention was caught by the colorful jeepneys and by the men who serenaded us at the airport. I can see that Filipinos love music," she said.

Her first visit was over too quickly and she's looking forward to returning. "I'd like to come back to try the spas."

And would she be willing to sing a Tagalog song? "Why not? I think Filipino songs are warm and have a lot of heart."

Clearly, there's no stopping this triple threat.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

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DASHING James Deaken and Tisha Cruz-Bautista



SISTERS China Cojuangco and Mikee C. Jaworski



CHILLING IT. Mariles Romulo and Pitoy Moreno



AMBASSADOR to Italy Philippe Lhuillier



FRENCH connection. French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel with daughter Kirana C. and wife Ning

Manila fetes global beauty salon



FASHIONABLE FACES. Yaying Dragon and Carol Garcia



IMELDA Romualdez-Marcos, Dr. Daniel Vazquez and Provost international manager Marc Aublet



SUSAN, Iya and Albert Afan



HELEN Yuchengco-Dee



ANDY Bautista



MALOU C. de Venecia, Cinderella marketing director



SHOE-LOVER Roberto de Venecia

"GENUINE BEAUTY CANNOT BE DEFINED by culture, color or character. Its definition is as ubiquitous as the faces that depict it." This, *palanggas*, is the perspective that beauty-maker, the unmatched Franck Provost, lives by. His love for global beauty remains the secret of his huge success, dahlings.

From three salons, his shops now number over 600 worldwide with "a forecast to double that volume by the year 2010," would you believe?

On one of his jet-set visits around the world, the *très charmant* Franck Provost visited his Manila associates and business partners: el simpatico Dr. Daniel Vazquez and his wife, Ising Madrigal Vazquez, and alabaster beauty, Baby Cruz, *natch!*

That evening the Vazquezes and Baby C. hosted an excellent dinner at the chic and *très* popular Embassy, and the Provost group gave a fab hair and makeup presentation.

The guest list ran from the young to the young-at-heart, dahlings: Ambassador to Italy, Philippe Lhuillier, and elegant wife, Edna Diago; timeless designer Pitoy Moreno; Rosie Valencia; lawyer Antonio Meer; former first lady Imelda Romualdez-Marcos; Yaying Dragon and Carol Garcia; Dulce Romualdez; Teresita Liboro and Chot Reyes; Jeweler designer Gerard Huon; our town's young guards like sisters two, China Cojuangco and Mikee C. Jaworski; Bela; and Miguel and Marivic Vazquez.

Stylish pals Kitty Go, Kathy de Guzman and Raul Manzano breezed in late-ish.

On a rare night-out were Tonette Martel, Evie Costa, stylish Doody Tuason, Frannie Jacinto and Jenny Dayrit-Leviste.

The French connection was headed by French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel; French press attaché Carole Lucas, plus French Embassy contingent.

Also there were Helen Yuchengco Dee; "Straight Talk's" Cito Beltran; brilliant Freddie Garcia; Provost international manager, tall Marc Aublet; L'Oreal Paris representative, the *très charmant* Pierre Ribiero with L'Oreal's Angelique Villaraza.

As a special surprise, Franck Provost was serenaded with a "Happy Birthday" song. Guests received raffle prizes from South Sea Pearl jewelry, Jeweler International, L'Oreal, Schwarzkopf, Boutique Manila, and Franck Provost, *naturellement!*

Britannia steps in

One of England's favorite shoe brands has landed in our shores, *palanggas*. Cinderella Marketing Corp. gives us Clarks shoes, which is becoming the fastest-growing brand in Asia.

All excited over the arrival of Clarks was Cinderella's hot VP for merchandising, brilliant Ritchie Santos.

Checking it out, *moi* immediately felt the high-quality leather of the brand. Clarks uses polyurethane, which has a lightweight cushioning material, making the shoes totally light and so comfy to wear, *palanggas*.

Clarks launched its awesome collection during the "Shoe Fashion Show" at the SM Megamall Bldg. and is now available at SM Megamall; Cinderella, Gloria 2; and soon, at the V Mall Greenhills Shopping Center and the Mall of Asia.

Italian resto gets facelift

Caffe Caruso Ristorante Italiano on Reposo St., Bel-Air, Makati, opened its doors *après* its facelift recently.

Hey, *moi* could spot the change immediately. The new interiors are in Mediterranean colors, and for you guys who don't pity your lungs, there's a glass-enclosed function room that serves as the smoking area.

WITHOUT BATTLING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare system



sliced beef tenderloin and veggie, baked in Italian oven-style, and to-die-for panacotta, plus Italian wines to drown it all, dahlings.

Leading the hotshot pack was the new Italian Ambassador, Rubens Fedele, and members of the local Italian community, all regular diners of the resto, *natch*.

Hot namedroppables include Italian trade commissioner Giacomo Nicastro, businessmen Michaeli Colangelo, Stefano Sgarbi, Sultan Armando Di Rossi, Manuela and Nicola Strazzari, ABB's Gianfranco Blanchetti-Revelli, Sonomi Tanaka, Andrea Monari, Michelli Fabio Colangelo, Charles Andrew Howard, Claudio Menesini, Roberto Pazzini, Pasquale Binetti of Cellar and Celler Wines, and Vincenzo and Georgina Lombardo.

Digging into the excellent, unique new pizza that was being passed around were Vision Express' Lito Domantay and man-about-town Dixie Mabanta, who were hobnobbing with glamour gals like Becky Garcia (chilling it out for a while preparing for her wedding next month), and stunning beauties Nichole Anderson and Bianca King, and Mary Grace Sanchez.



BABY Cruz and gentleman-of-the-hour Franck Provost



LAURENT Hebert and model



GOULVEN Floch with model



CHESKA Weinbrenner Tiu-Laurel



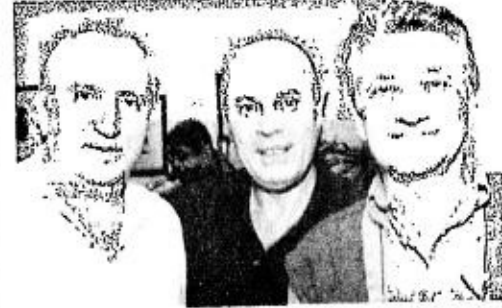
EDNA Diago Lhuillier with Ising Vazquez, and Offie Recto



LETTY Santos, Ditas Jalbuena, Angie Rodriguez, Chot Reyes and Boey Cruz



ITALIANOS of the hour. Caffe Caruso Resto's hotshot owners Dario Gardini and Franco Martellotti



RENATO Conti and Vitranio Gaetano with the new Italian Ambassador Ruben Fidele



PARTYING glam gals Becky Garcia, Jane Yu, Apple Mateo and Jean Saburit



THE ITALIAN connection. Domini Alessandro, Dozi Cesare and Tissimo Alessandro



BUSINESSMAN Dennis Littonjua; Arthur G. Coronel, Cinderella CEO; Frederick Famm, Electrolux top man; and Ritchie Santos, young VP of merchandising for Cinderella

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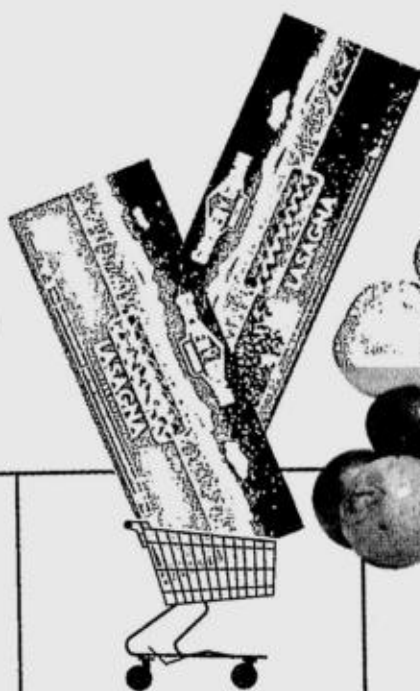
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Grape Juice Purple
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454g **P78.50**/box



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Cabbage P24.95/kg • Native Tomato P18.90/kg • Fresh Peanut P55.75/kg
• Fragrant Pears P89.25/kg • Crimson Seedless Red Grapes P183.75/kg
• Fuji Apple (All Sizes) P59.95/kg • Star Apple P47.25/kg • Gabi Cebu P26.25/kg •
Camote P8.40/kg • Green Papaya P12.60/kg • Singkamas P15.75/kg
• Baguio Tomato P68.25/kg • Baguio Sayote P9.45/kg • Native Pechay P31.50/kg



Nabisco Chips Ahoy
Chunky
425g **P146.50**/pk



Russell Stover
White Chocolate Assortment
454g **P445.00**/box



Dal Monte
100% Penne Pasta w/ 4 Seasons Sauce P39.20/can
Sweetened Four Seasons Juice Drink P41.80/can
Spaghetti Pasta Bolognese P51.25/can
Spaghetti Sauce Bolognese P56.05/can



Purefoods
Beefitos Hotdog Regular
1k **P109.75**/pk
Corned Beef 150g **P29.00**/can



Coconut
Soy Sauce 1L Per **P50.85**/bot
1.9L Plastic **P111.75**/jug
3.8L Plastic **P167.50**/jug



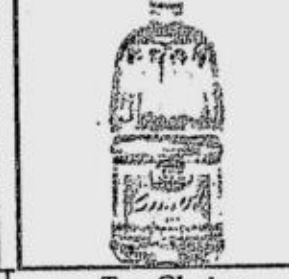
MarcaLeon
Corn Oil (in Plastic)
1.2L **P306.70**/jug 1.8L **P159.00**/jug
Vegetable Oil (in Plastic)
1.2L **P208.50**/jug 1.8L **P106.50**/jug



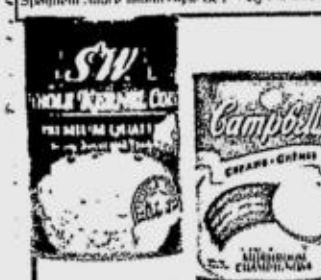
Baguio Oil
Refined Edible Oil (Plastic)
3.2L **P213.50**/jug 1.8L **P109.00**/jug
1.8L (Pet) **P61.95**/bot



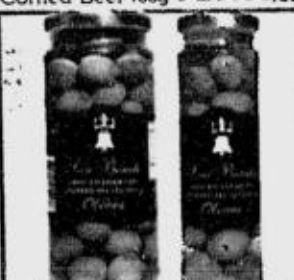
Spring
Pure Vegetable Cooking Oil (Plastic)
1.8L **P94.25**/bot 1L **P49.35**/bot
3.2L **P172.50**/jug



Top Choice
Corn Oil
2L **P201.50**/bot
Canola Oil
1L **P95.75**/bot 2L **P186.50**/bot



S&W
Cream Style Corn 400g **P25.50**/can
Whole Kernel Corn 400g **P25.50**/can
Campbell's
Cream of Mushroom Soup Canada
240g **P34.50**/can



San Benito
Manzanilla Olives
Stuffed Minced Pimiento 340g **P71.25**/can
Stuffed Minced Anchovy 150g **P52.25**/can



Dizon Farms
Honey Mustard, Caesar, Secret
Salad Dressings
250ml **P119.50**/bot



Anbann
Whole Lychee in Syrup 1.2L **P28.50**/can
Bamboo Shoots 450g **P27.50**/can
Bragg's
Organic Apple Cider Vinegar
473ml **P104.50**/bot



Sun-Maid
California Raisins 500g **P112.50**/can
Sunsweet
Prune Juice (Plastic Bottle)
946ml **P151.50**/bot



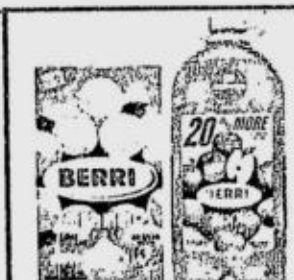
Seaking
Boneless Milkfish (Bangus)
Head & Tail 500g **P20.50**/pk
Belly 400g **P140.95**/pk



Viva Espana
Red Wine 750ml **P118.50**/bot
Tocornal
Cabernet Sauvignon
750ml **P219.50**/bot



Tampico
Citrus Drink 2L **P60.50**/bot
Cebu
Dried Mangoes 200g **P95.00**/pk



Berri
Apple Juice (Pet)
2.4L **P147.50**/bot
Orange Juice 1L **P70.75**/netto



Pillsbury
Hotcake Mix
200g **P19.25**/box 500g **P40.25**/box
One-Step Hotcake Mix
200g **P24.85**/box 500g **P50.25**/box



Jenny's
Super Loaf Cream Bread
620g **P28.75**/bot
Mini Monay
250g **P12.95**/pk



Best Foods
Relish Sandwich Spread
414ml **P148.50**/bot
Golden King
Almond Jelly 540g **P29.75**/can



Sunkist
Pistachios Dry Roasted
& Salted in Shell
170g **P152.95**/pk 70g **P64.50**/pk



Tobi
Dry Roasted Peanuts
500g **P88.75**/pk



Zest-O
Orange, Apple Juice Drink
10x200ml **P42.50**/box



Oishi Pillows
Choco Peanut-Filled Crackers 45g
Choco-Filled Crackers 45g
Chocolate Crackers w/ Vanilla Orange 45g
P4.95/pk



Fibisco
Chocolate Chip Cookies
200g **P27.50**/pk



Mrs. Fields
Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips
Milk Chocolate Chips, Cherry Fudge
200g **P203.50**/box
Cott Root Beer 350ml **P17.95**/can
Diet Rite Hot Raspberry 350ml **P17.50**/can



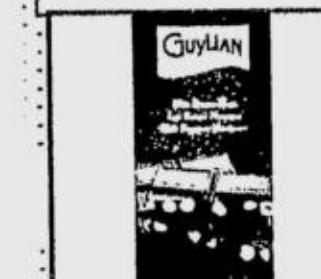
Van Houten
Chocolate Whole Roast Almonds
Whole Fruit & Nuts, Whole Hazel Nuts
& Full Cream Milk 200g **P82.95**/can



Nestle
Crunch Milk Chocolate Giant 141.7g
Creamy White Chocolate Giant 127.5g
P55.50/bot



Pangburn's
Round-Up of
Selected Chocolates
361g **P530.00**/box



Guylian
Chocolate Bar Dark,
Milk, Milk Nuts, Milk Raisin Nuts
200g **P155.00**/bar



Clover Chips
Cheesier, BBQ, Ham & Cheese
55g **P9.95**/pk
155g **P23.50**/pk



Nabisco
Chips Ahoy
453g **P130.50**/pk



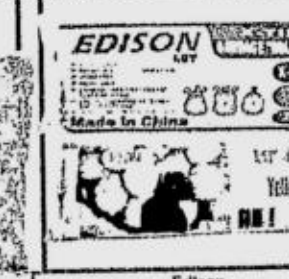
Porky Best
Pork Skin Crackers
Regular 60g **P21.25**/pk
Hot 60g **P22.75**/pk



Earth Flavors
Crunchy Garlic,
Regular & Spicy
100g **P74.50**/bot



Edison
Canary Bird Seeds,
Sun Flower Seeds
500g **P50.95**/pk



Edison
X-Tw Garage Ball Bag 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100
X-Tw Garage Ball Bag
Clear Scented Green Bag 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100
P81.50/can
P118.50/can
P71.50/can
P96.95/can



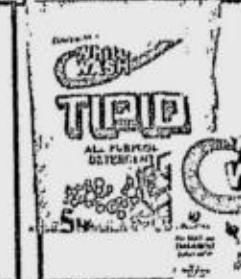
Colgate
Fluoride Toothpaste
Great Regular **P67.00**/tube
100ml **P47.00**/tube
6x100ml **P30.25**/box



Astring-O-Sol
Gold Concentrated Mouthwash 250ml **P155.00**/can
Fleischmann's Concentrated Mouthwash
250ml **P204.25**/can
Santalal 250ml **P283.75**/can
Low Residue 1x1.5L Mouthwash 250ml **P130.00**/can



Surf
Gold Detergent Powder
w/ Active Scrub
80g **P6.30**/pk 480g **P47.90**/pk
1.8L **P92.80**/box 2.5L **P214.80**/box



White Wash
Tipid All Purpose Detergent
6L **P168.95**/bag
Washing Machine Detergent w/
Fabric Softener & P224.95/bag



Wings
Activeguard Detergent Powder
500g **P49.75**/box
1L **P87.50**/box



KitchenMate
Cleanser Detergent Lemon Fresh
1L **P15.95**/box
Dishwashing Paste Lemon Fresh
200g **P17.75**/box
Burkett Box 200g **P28.95**/box



Patriot
Medicated Dog Shampoo w/ Conditioner
600ml **P118.50**/box
Asuka
Rice White Air Conditioning
1L (600ml) **P74.50**/box

LIFESTYLE

Beauty for a cause



BB. PILIPINAS Charities, Inc., founder Stella Marquez de Araneta attends to the beneficiaries of the Charity Day at Fiesta Carnival.

THE BINIBING PILIPINAS Charities, Incorporated, (BPCI) founded by Stella Marquez de Araneta 42 years ago, has remained true to its promise of providing support and assistance to those in need.

Aiming to benefit orphans, indigent families, and victims of calamities, this non-stock, nonprofit organization has gone the extra mile.

In San Bernardo, Leyte, the BPCI is working double time to provide relief goods for the affected people in the area.

The recently concluded Charity Day held at The Fiesta Carnival in Cubao, Quezon City, benefited at least 500 underprivileged children from several Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) daycare centers.

The BPCI is also involved in providing medical assistance to wounded AFP soldiers at the Veteran's Hospital.

Through the years, funds generated from the beauty pageant have been donated to various orphanages in Metro Manila, calamity victims such as those affected by the Mount Pinatubo eruption, and indigent people. Educational workshops and skills training classes have also been provided for the less privileged.

This year's pageant comes to its conclusion on Coronation Night at 7 p.m., March 4, at the Araneta Coliseum. The show will be aired over GMA 7.



BEAUTIES enjoy the carousel with underprivileged children from DSWD daycare centers.

Meeting on inner beauty

INNER BEAUTY AT Work, the third annual inner beauty conference organized by Springs Foundation, will be held in Cebu and Manila. The Manila meeting will be at 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., March 11, SM Conference Center, 5/F, SM Megamall Bldg B, Edsa. The Cebu conference will be at 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., March 25, SM City Trade

GOINGS ON

Hall, Cebu City. During the event, the book "Inner Beauty at Home" by sisters Didi Nakar Marañon and Dondi Nakar Catan will be launched. Tickets cost P350 each. Call 7226749 (Manila); or 2344192 (Cebu). Visit www.innerbeautysecrets.com

PROMO. Lulu Castagnette, the fashion store chain, gives a free teddy bear for a minimum single-receipt purchase of P2,000. The promo runs until April 30. Lulu Castagnette has stores at 2/L, Glorietta 4; 3/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall; and U Rustan's Alabang Town Center.

PLAY. Dulaang UP, with the UP Vocal Ensemble and the UP Filipiniana Dance Group, presents "Gabriela: An Oratorio" by Dr. Joi Barrios. The play runs until March 5 at the Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2/F, Palma Hall, University of the Philippines Diliman, QC. Call 9261349, 9818500 loc. 2449 or 2451.

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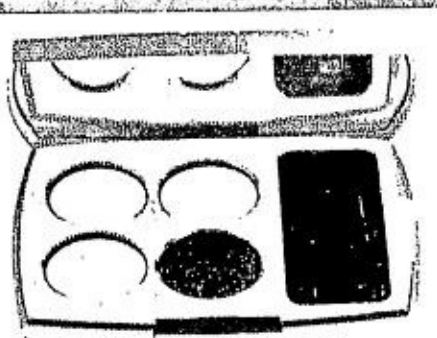
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Ria Francisco-Prieto

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SHIMMER powder



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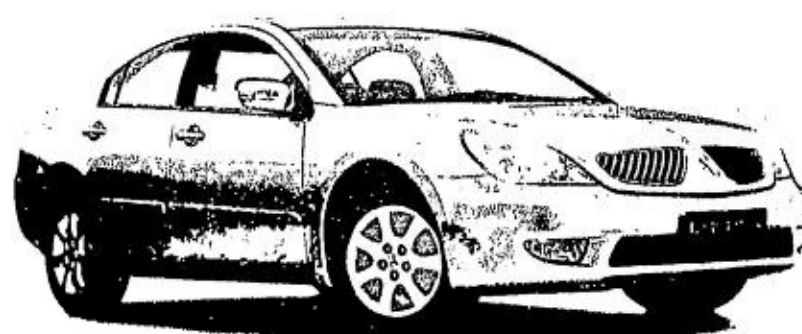
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A spring in your step

Lancôme ushers in spring with The Enchantress, a collection inspired by Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

By Ria Francisco-Prieto

THE WORLD ALWAYS looks reborn at the onset of spring—a new year, the first rays of sunshine, the fresh blooms, and, of course, the latest beauty trends!

French beauty brand Lancôme ushers in spring with The Enchantress, a collection inspired by Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The look is reminiscent of playful fairies dancing in the

garden and naughty pixies weaving magical spells.

This whimsical collection features the modern glamorous fairy—a beautiful and powerful woman, ethereal and mysterious. A woman so beautiful she doesn't seem real. The Enchantress combines an array of wondrous airy pastels and embodies the spirit of romanticism: a burst of shimmer on the face, a splash of color on the lids and creamy lips in pastel shades with metallic tones.

Abbygale Arenas-de Leon, Lancôme's chief makeup artist, weaves her own spell as she interprets the look with easy-to-follow steps.

Face

When using pastel colors, focus on perfecting the complexion so the color doesn't have to work as hard. The trend of this season, though, is all about dewy skin. Abby recommends using a two-way cake foundation like Photogenic, which has sheer coverage and reflects light for a natural look. Brush all over your face and add a subtle hint of peach-pink blush.

Polish this off with a burst of shimmer from Lancôme's Petite Bohème, a loose shimmer powder housed in a portable container with built-in puff for easy use, to areas of the face you want to pull forward—cheekbones, temples, bridge of the nose and chin.

Avoid adding shimmer too close to fine lines around the eye and too low on

the apples of the cheeks as this can emphasize porous areas on the cheek. Abby likes using the silver and gold powder for fair complexions, but the bronze shade would work best on morena tones.

Eyes

Go for glamorous with pastel shades this season. Color Focus Palette 202 Enchanted Forest has four different shades housed in a floral compact—coral, green, glittery black and white.

Build the colors to show the dimensions of each shade. Layering shadows allows you to complement one color by applying several others.

Abby used the nude coral all over the lids as base and added the green shade for luster. The glittery black shadow was lined on the top of the lash line for definition, while white color was used as a highlighter under the brow bone on the inner corner of the eyes to make it pop.

Crayon Khol waterproof liner in silver was also lined on top of the eyes to soften the look. Layering a volumizing mascara like Hypnose is a sure way to make pastel colors stand out and create an ethereal look.

Lips

Soft glossy lips enchant this season. Abby recommends using Sweet Balm lip treatment to make sure lips are moisturized, as gloss will only highlight chapped lips.

Apply a hydrating lipstick in pearly pink like Le Rouge Absolu 395 and top this off with Lancôme's cult lip gloss, Juicy Tubes. This season, limited-edition shades are available with gleaming silver caps and fairy-dust sprinkled tubes.

Abby used Juicy Tubes 68 Petite Nymph, a sheer peach gloss with a glasslike effect to plump up lips.

MAKEUP: ABBYGALE ARENAS-DE LEON OF LANCÔME USING SPRING 2006 COLLECTION: THE ENCHANTRESS
HAIR: BERGE ALOBA OF L'ORÉAL PROFESSIONNEL
ACCESSORIES: TOPSHOP
PHOTOGRAPHY: PAT DY
MODEL: KAREN GRUUP

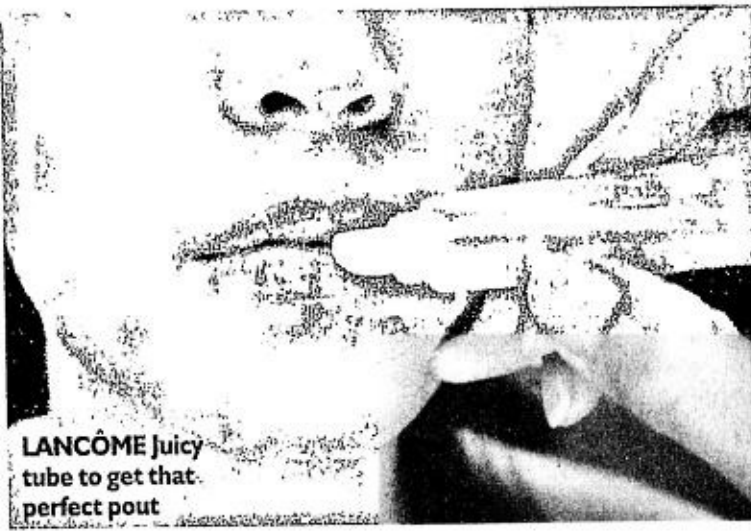


ESTABLISH a good base before coloring your face.



cut & keep

USE brush for precision



LANCÔME Juicy tube to get that perfect pout

Summer sparks

WHY SHOULD EXTRA EFFORTS to look beautiful end after Valentine's? All year round we should make a conscious effort to look our best. Not always for hooking someone but, more importantly, for improving ourselves.

Forget about natural. Go sexy, wild and adventurous. The look of the season is shimmer, shimmer, shimmer. But, as I said before, everything should be in moderation. You wouldn't want to look like a lighted bulb because of your too shimmery face.

The trick here is to just choose a feature that you want to enhance. It may be your eyes, lips or cheeks. If you have shimmery eyes, go for toned-down lips and vice-versa. If you want your cheeks to be the highlight, then eyes and lips should be neutral. The possibilities are endless. Just experiment and play with your makeup until you get that perfect look.

For our makeover model, I decided to focus on her eyes and give her that sexy, sophisti-

Summer flings and hot shimmery shades for grabs

cated look.

Face. Apply foundation/concealer. It is better to use one that is long-lasting and sweat-proof. Try Maybelline's Pure Zone Liquid Foundation. It blends well with the skin and you look like you are not wearing any base at all.

Since it is liquid foundation, it is very important to dust it off with loose powder to set the makeup.

Eyes. This is one part of your face where the skin is wrinkle-free. A tiny dab of shimmer on either the inside corner or in the very center of the eyelid gives sparkle to the eyes. Sweep a dark eye shadow over your lid and blend it carefully

into the crease. Then apply whatever color you used on your upper lid to your lower lashes to accentuate the shape of your eyes.

Whereas black eyeliner is usually too severe for daylight look, it is perfect for this glam look. Using a pencil is easier especially for beginners. Draw a fine line above and below your lashes. A good eyeliner to try is Fashion 21. If you want a more dramatic line, try Awake's Stardom Liquid Liner in Carbon Gray. It is smudge-proof and sweat-proof. After applying the liner, sweep a pearlized/shimmery shadow on your brow bone. Don't forget to apply mascara.

Cheeks. Tawny blushers or bronzers are ideal for this look as this natural color won't compete with your eye makeup. Sweep it over your cheek bone.

Lips. Keep the lips neutral. Opt for pinkish beige shades of lip pencil and smudge it over your entire lips for an understated matte effect.

And don't forget your hair, too. Wavy hair is making a big comeback that's why a lot of people flock to salons to have their hair permed. If you don't have the guts to take that big leap of faith and change your hairstyle, try using curling irons or benders.

It is safe and temporary. Enjoy the journey. Have fun and love it.

TEXT AND MAKEUP: BARBI CHAN
MODEL: ANNA ESCALONA



BEFORE

AFTER



STUNNING in lilac

Lovely lilac

This color is surprisingly very easy to wear once you find the right shade for your skin

IF YOU ARE THE TYPE WHO likes lilacs and purples, then you must be a dreamer who can't stand the sight of ugliness in any form.

This hue has an aura of intrigue

and mystery. People who love this color are often enigmatic and highly creative individuals.

Lilac is a very feminine color. It is ideal for summer day wear. There are so many shades to choose from, from dusty lilac to sultry plum. Lilac is surprisingly very easy to wear once you find the right shade for your skin.

But rule of thumb is, don't overdo the color. Always wear neutral cheeks and lips to balance the look. Just choose one feature of your face that you want to emphasize.

Eyes. Apply a sheer lilac base from the root of your upper lid up to the brow bone. This will even out the color of the lids. A good brand to try is Maybelline Color Wear Glitter in Glitter Purple or the

Color Wear Trio Eye Shadow in Tenderness. These eye shadows can either be used wet or dry.

To enhance and give the eyes the dramatic look, apply a deep purple starting on the outer corner of your eyes going inside. Always remember to apply sparingly for you don't want to look like you have a black eye.

Try Maybelline's Trio Eye Shadow in Winter Touch. This palette complements the ones I recommend for the eye base because they are in the same color family.

Cheeks. If you decide to use purple on your cheeks, use the shades of berry and just dot on the apples of your cheeks. This color usually works well on olive and medium-toned skin. If you are on

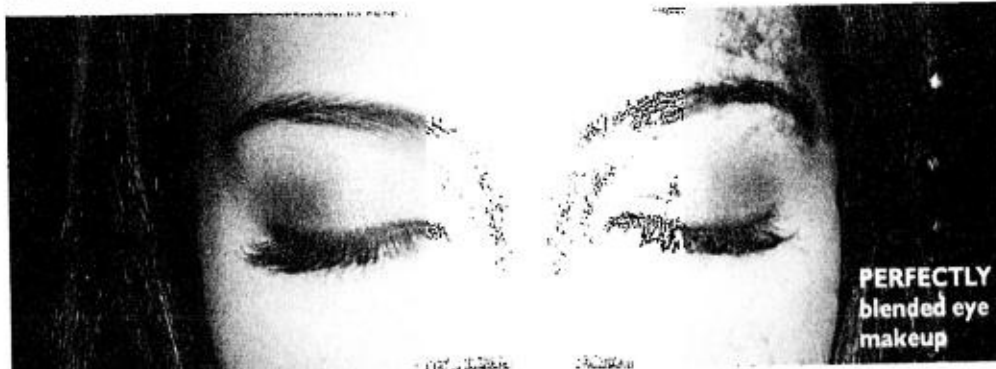
A CLEAN canvas before makeup is a must.



the fair side, you can still use this as long as you apply minimally at first then gradually build up the color. Try Shu Uemura in purple or red.

Lips. Same with the cheeks, a berry-colored lipstick when applied with a finger will give a stained effect. But for a sexy nighttime look, apply straight from the tube to the lip.

TEXT AND MAKEUP: BARBI CHAN
MODEL: CAROLINE ANDERSON



PERFECTLY blended eye makeup

Vavoom summer hair



WELLA Color Saver shampoo

MARCH SIGNALS THE COMING of the Spring collection in the United States and Europe, and the coming of the sweltering heat of summer in the Philippines. This time we are expected to be less glamorous and more refreshed! First on the agenda: the salon rounds.

Toni and Guy at 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati. My deep wine-colored hair was crying out for re-touch as the hair roots were about two inches visible. The new season called for lighter hair, so I booked myself to Toni and Guy's. The room was cozy and quiet plus it had a laptop computer equipped with Internet so I could go on working while Riza planned my new look. I barely felt the time go by as I was carrying on with business via web correspondence and text messaging—it was undoubtedly the most productive salon trip I ever had!

The colors were by Wella and I

had a medium-golden brown base color with fun streaks of bright red and rich gold, which made my complexion glow even when barefaced.

Upon leaving I was given Wella shampoo for color-treated hair and a leave-in conditioner to help the color set for two weeks. Immediately road-testing the product the very next morning, I was surprised at how Wella's quality has improved since I last tried it over a decade ago. The quality can actually compete with more flashy hair-product brands.

For inquiries on the hair color and Wella products, call Toni and Guy at 8128559/8002/9132.

Salon de Ken. What would a change of season be without a fabu-

lous haircut? I, of course, sought the expertise of Louis Philippe Kee, who, with his magic scissors and technique made my face look so

much slimmer, people automatically thought I had lost between 5-10 pounds or had grown taller. He kept my hair long but layered so I would have vavoom factor whilst maintaining the ease of wash-and-wear. This is why I have stayed faithful to the guy for over a year now.

Since I was already there, I could not resist the Chinese foot reflexology by Jovy and the shoulder and back massage by Nelson. I walked out of there refreshed and ready to tackle the world.

Men have been requesting for the Jovy foot reflexology and Nel-

son scalp, shoulder and back massage while waiting for their spouses to finish. Some have even gone back on their own accord sans wife or girlfriend.

Contact Salon de Ken at 8481886.

Mendez Body and Face. I just walked into the new branch in 2/F Goldcrest Makati beside Glorietta 1 because I was long overdue for some strategic hair removal. My aesthetician was Emma, a very calm maternal woman who moved with slow precision. She waxed my eyebrows to perfect clean arches that did not even require trimming, and my upper lips smooth in quick painless swipes. The true test came with the Brazilian bikini wax. Theirs was more expensive than the usual ones I have road-tested at P1,500, so I was ready to be critical. The big surprise was that it was painless and required minimal swipes to clean everything out.

One factor that may have been responsible for this, aside from Emma's very light hands, was the fact that my monthly had just finished, so I had no water retention whatsoever and the hairs were still short as the time span from my last wax was three weeks only.

My favorite among the bags of hair goodies, of course, is from Kerastase. Hot weather causes my already thin hair to get greasy and fall, so I make sure I treat myself to the Aminexil anti-hairloss tonic, P3,790 for 10 vials, and Bain Prevention Shampoo, P1,030. Bear in mind though that if you are already bald, it won't help your hair grow back. This is only for those with thinning, falling hair to correct the scalp problem early on.

Kerastase products are available at the 6750 Kerastase Institut and several salons all over Metro Manila.

MAKEOVER 911



Kinny Salas

Paseo De Santa Rosa at Greenfield City: The Country's First Outlet Supercenter

Planning a quick trip to the mall? Well, forget about traffic, crowded halls and those eye-popping price tags. At Greenfield City's expanding commercial landmark Paseo De Santa Rosa, it's all value-for-money shopping as it offers loads of great, quality finds, delectable food choices and unique entertainment for all.

A Super First!

Paseo De Santa Rosa takes pride in being the first outlet supercenter in the country. Successfully embracing a popular concept in the United States, it proved to be a perfect venue for shoppers to purchase top quality goods at discounted prices. Just hunt for great items at super brand outlets like Nike, Adidas, Puma, Speedo and more.

Plus, it offers a wide variety of options for enjoyment not only for the shopaholics but also, for the whole family.

Three is Never A Crowd

As more and more people made Paseo De Santa Rosa the preferred shopping, dining and entertainment hub, additional stores and food outlets are deemed inevitable. Thus, it paved the way to the construction of Paseo 3.

The soon-to-be completed Paseo 3 conveniently extends existing valued offerings of Paseo 1 & 2 yet giving them a new twist with a unique array of food finds, apparel and accessories.

More Choices at Low Prices

With the opening of new shops along the new strip of Paseo 3, shoppers are in for a wealth of choices of international brands at reasonable prices. No need to search high and low or wait for a great sale for to get your favorite sporting gears, trendy apparel and exciting finds. Just visit Paseo De Santa Rosa and you'll surely get more choices and better deals.

It's Worth the Trip

Now a favorite hub for shopping, dining and entertainment in the South, Greenfield City's commercial landmark is seen to draw an even bigger crowd of shoppers as it is nestled just a 45-minute drive from Manila. Easily accessible and away from the hustle and bustle of the metropolis, Paseo De Santa Rosa is definitely a choice shopping destination.

Paseo De Santa Rosa lies at the heart of the master-planned Greenfield City, one of Greenfield Development Corporation's stalwart projects in the South of Manila. It serves as the retail and commercial component envisioned to become a town center that provides a better shopping, dining experience to cater to varying customers' taste and preferences.

To know more about Paseo De Santa Rosa, please call 420-8003 or (049) 541-2845, email marketing@greenfield.com.ph or log on to www.greenfield.com.ph.



GREENFIELD CITY

THE COUNTRY'S FIRST OUTLET SUPERCENTER

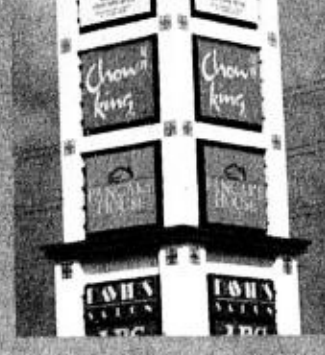















EVERYTHING ABOUT IT IS WORLD-CLASS.

EVEN THE COMPANY IT KEEPS.

Be a part of the country's first world-class outlet Supercenter!

Rising up in the South is a unique shopping destination. The new Paseo de Santa Rosa, now bigger and better with its international shops and choices of global brands. Paseo de Santa Rosa combines the elements from the other world-class outlet supercenters, offering great brands with super discounts everyday.

Just a 45 minute drive away from Manila, Paseo de Santa Rosa is worth the trip. So give your business a global view, take it to the new Paseo de Santa Rosa.



HOW TO GET THERE

Coming from Manila take the South Superhighway, exit at Santa Rosa Exit, turn right and take Sta. Rosa - Tagaytay Road. Paseo de Santa Rosa is 5 kms. away in your left.

RESERVE NOW!

Call 420-8003 or (049)5412845

PASEO 3 OPENING SOON!




3 Days of Fun Shopping at Four SM Supermalls!

Grab the discounts and promo offers at SM Southmall Las Piñas, SM City Manila, SM City Pampanga, and SM City Iloilo on March 3, 4, and 5.

The month of March comes with a welcome harvest of value buys for shoppers at four SM Supermalls.

Get up to 50% off on great choices mallwide. Merchandise on sale include apparel, home furnishings, appliances, supermarket staples, novelty items, toys, baby basics, sporting goods, I.T. equipment and gadgets, and more.



A total of 50 units of JVC XA-HD500 Digital Audio Players are at stake in the raffle events.

Every P500 purchase at any mall establishment gives shoppers the chance to win.

Whichever among the four SM malls you shop at, you can win a new JVC audio appliance.



SM Southmall Las Piñas

15 units can be won at five units per day on March 3, 4, 5 at 9pm.

• **Techie Hub** For you techies out there, hop on over to our **Cyberzone**, the coolest place to surf the net. Get wired to the latest gadgets and gizmos and get addicted to the latest mobile phones. All these are up for grabs at SM Southmall Las Piñas.

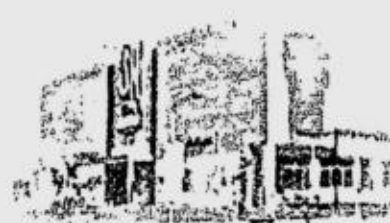
• Check out  and  on the upper ground floor.



SM City Manila

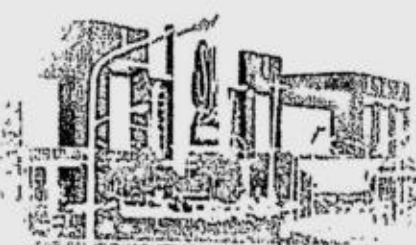
10 units will be drawn at 10pm on March 5.

• Don't miss out on Food Music Zone at the lower ground floor, a popular hangout for food and music lovers. 



SM City Iloilo

10 units are up for grabs with the following schedule: on March 3 at 2pm, 6pm, 10pm. On March 4 at 2pm, 6pm, 10pm. And on March 5 at 12nn, 3pm, 6pm, 10pm.



SM City Pampanga

15 units can be won at 9pm on March 5.

• This very popular mall in San Fernando continues to attract thousands of customers everyday. It now offers an exciting array of sale items for 3 days!

Experience the new SM Cinemas.  Its luxurious seating, great sound and wide screen facilities invite mallers to relax and enjoy the latest movies in airconditioned comfort.

 Offering a variety of specialty food counters, SM Foodcourt is the ideal place to take time out from bargain hunting and replenish your energy before you shop some more in the mall.

3 day sale
mar 3. 4. 5
up to 50% OFF
great selections mallwide



mall hours:
10am-10pm



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0028, Series of 2000

Per DTI-PGA Permit No. 024, Series of 2000

Per DTI-ILOILO Permit No. 06-040, Series of 2000

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

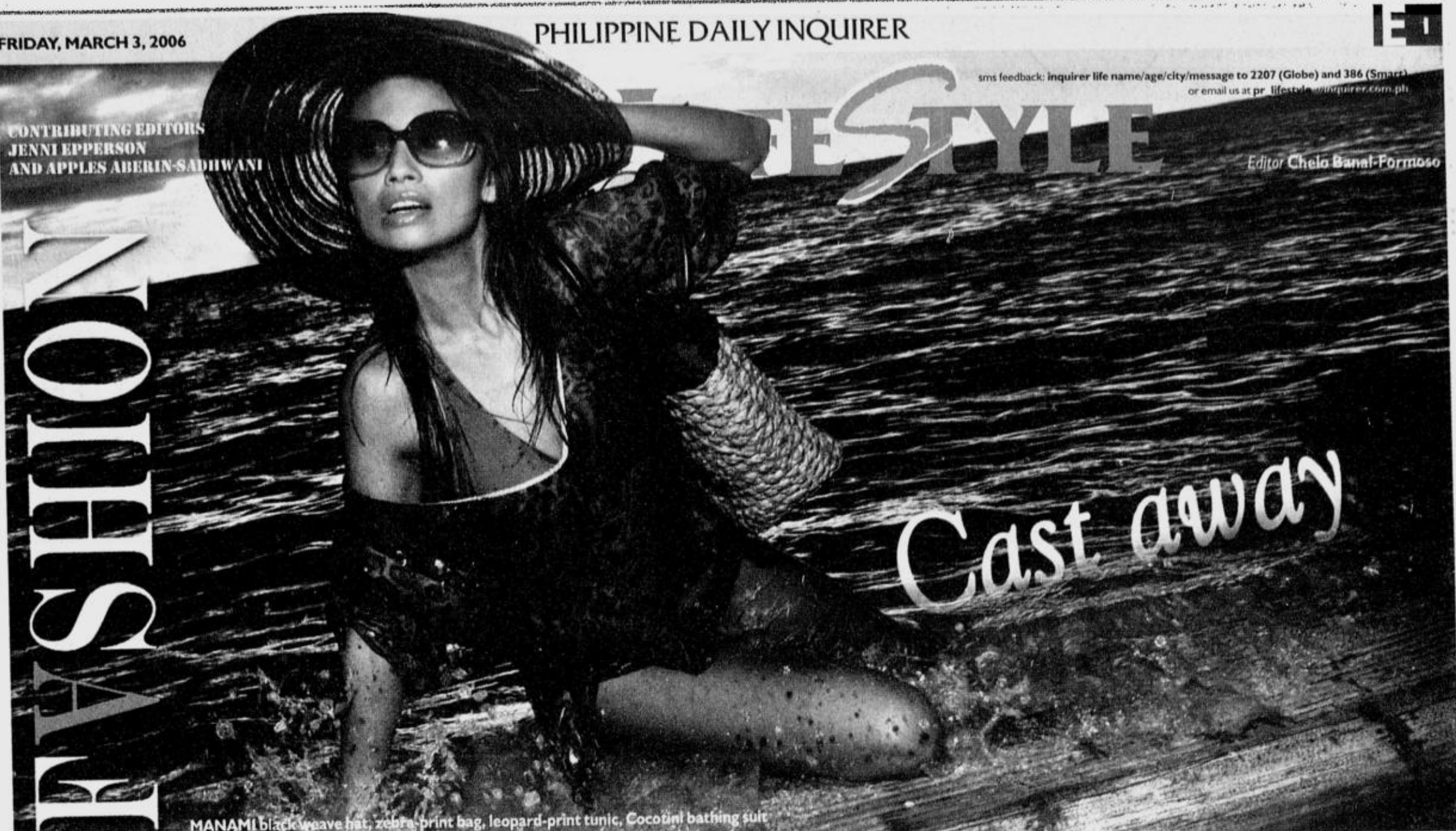


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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

FASHION



Cast away

MANAMI black wave hat, zebra-print bag, leopard-print tunic, Cocotini bathing suit

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HAIR AND MAKEUP
XENG ZULUETA
OF SHU UEMURA
USING KIEHL'S STYLIST SERIES
AND MAKEUP COLLECTION
"SWEET MODE"
MODEL CIARA SEVILLA
CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES
MANAMI BOUTIQUE
SHOT ON LOCATION
NAMI RESORT
DINIWID BEACH BORACAY
SPECIAL THANKS
LEX LEDESMA
AND TINA TINIO

My
swept
away
must-have
is...

The little
black dress
because it's
idiot proof.

—Cindy Kurlito,
MTV VJ, actress/
wild elephant
observer

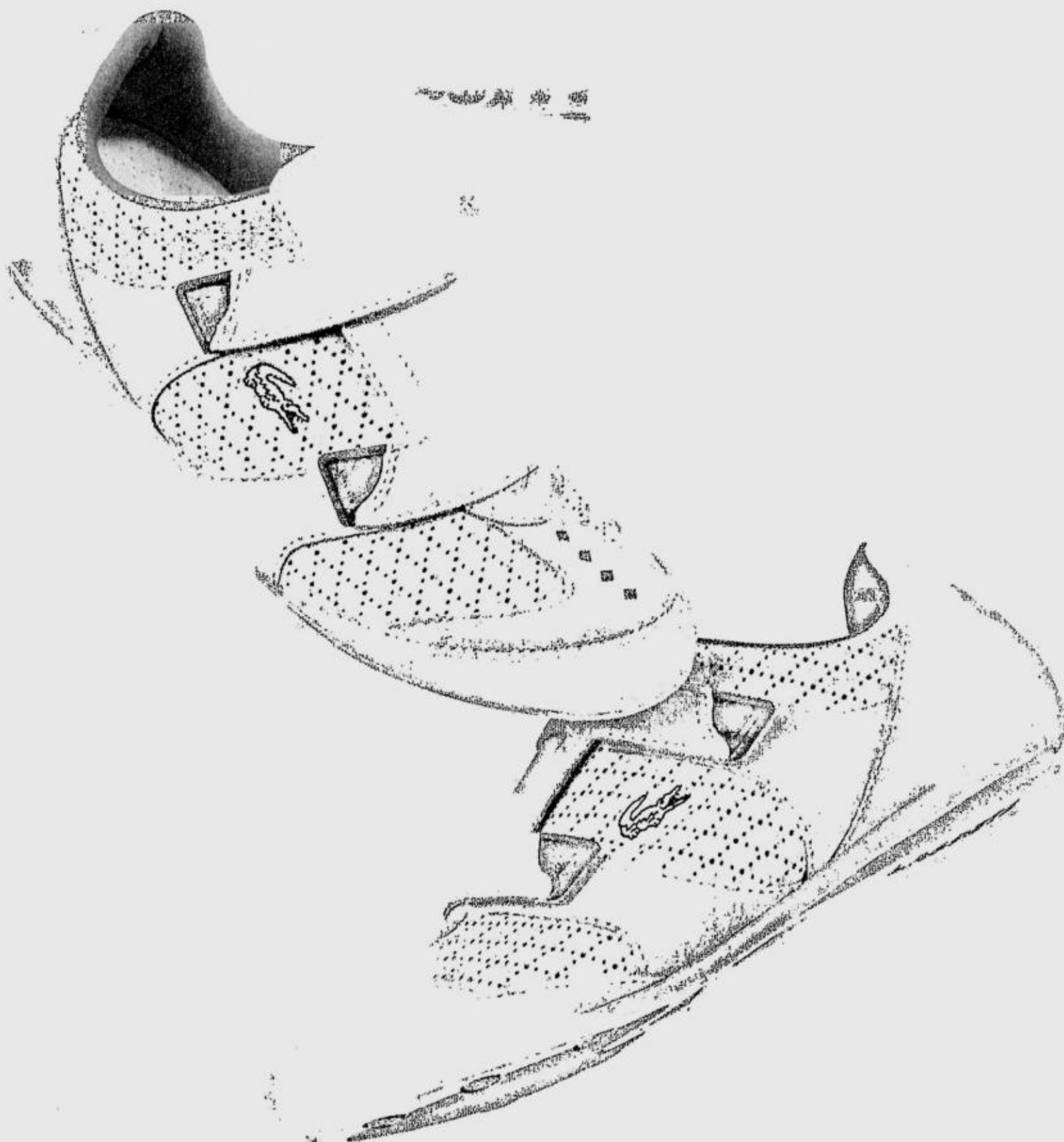
My antique
charm
necklaces
worn layered.
It looks
good with
everything
and makes
my neck look
longer.

—Daphne Oseña,
F TV host/war
photographer

Heirloom
jewelry
because
wherever I
am, it will
remind me of
my family.

—Maureen Disini,
stylist/dirty
dancer


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• SM City Davao, Tel. No. (082) 297-2510 • Ayala Center Cebu, Tel. (032) 232-5455

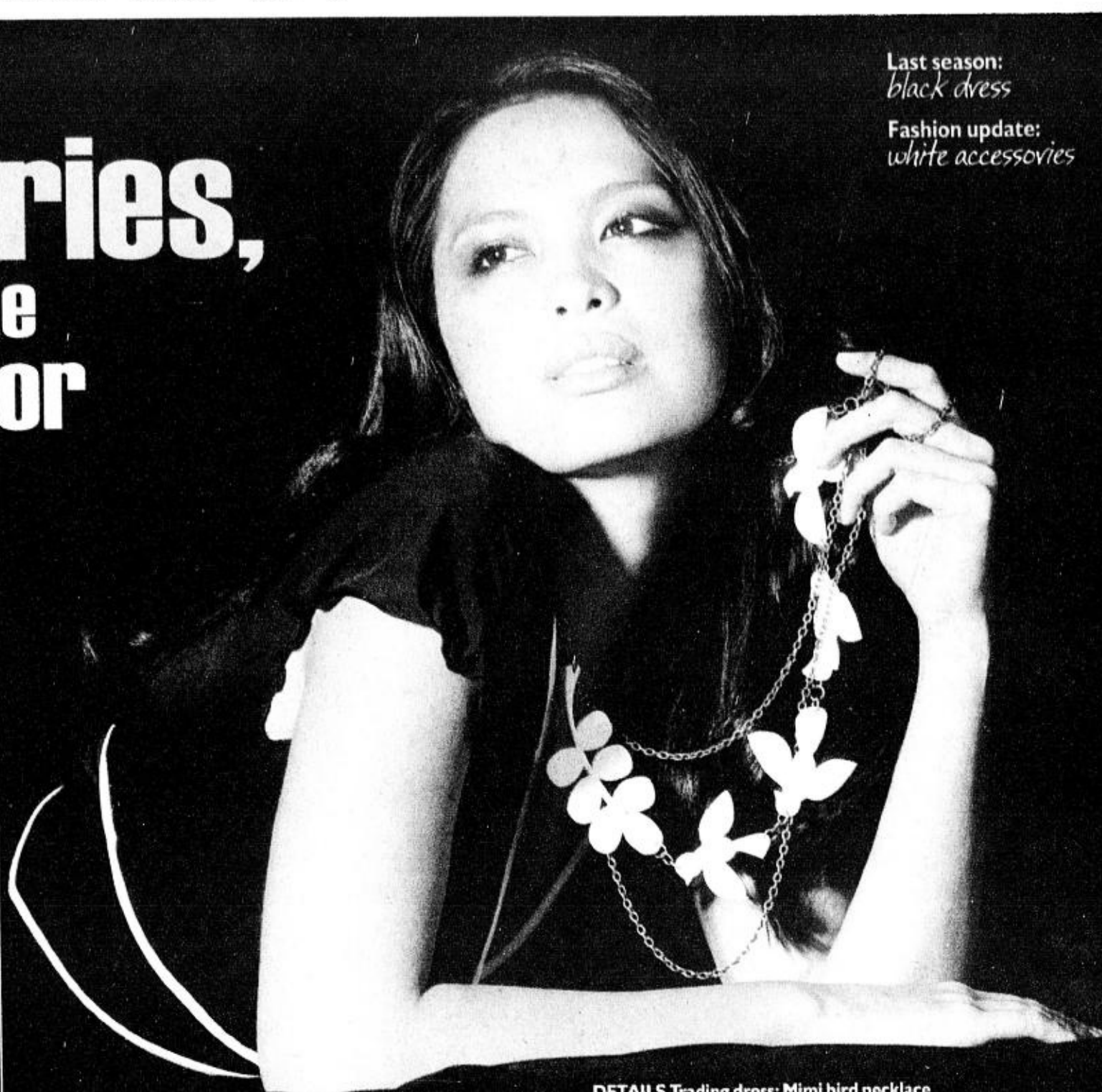
Accessories, the ultimate style savior

Basic pieces get a fashion boost
with this season's accessories

Wardrobe basic:
the suit

Fashion update:
wedges and platforms

ZARA blazer, skirt
and top; Ninewest
wedge sandals



Last season:
black dress

Fashion update:
white accessories

DETAILS Trading dress; Mimi bird necklace

THESE ARE TRYING TIMES for our poor, battered nation. I'm sure that the last thing on most people's minds is the hottest fashion trend or the 101 incarnations of the LBD. I, for one, am having difficulty writing about sartorial, potentially superfluous concerns when such uncertainties abound.

Last season:
glitter top

Fashion update:
native tote

APPLES' PICKINGS



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

ZARA top;
Tiger Lily
bikini from
Rustan's,
YRYS
necklaces;
CMG tote

However, my wise editor once told me that life goes on and I must, in my own small way, strive to uplift others' lives through my passion for fashion. So, in the midst of all this, here I am writing my weekly column and dreaming of a united, progressive Philippines.

Having said all that, let me turn your attention to the importance of accessories in updating your basic wardrobe or season's old pieces. We're not all born with a silver spoon in our pretty little mouths. Unlike the Hilton or Miller sisters, most of us don't have the luxury of a total wardrobe change every six months. Probably not even every six years!

Practicality is the name of the game, so it's vital to know what pieces you'll need to take your wardrobe from one season to the next. Dressing fashionably does not always translate to big bucks.

The bottom line is this: Accessories can provide an effortless, enjoyable and affordable way of expressing yourself and creating a more versatile wardrobe.

But as always, choose items that will suit your personality, body type and age. And never follow trends if they don't suit you. You can't go wrong if you're simply yourself.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Wardrobe basic:
tank top and jeans

Fashion update:
rope details

BOB Marley tank
top by Gotham;
Zara shorts and bag



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USING KIEHL'S STYLIST SERIES
MAKEUP XING ZULUETA
OF SHU UEMURA
USING PRECISE EYESHADOWS
MODEL ISABEL ROCES PMAF



ADD a scarf to your
nautical ensemble
for a sexy finish.

Naughty call

A mischievous shot of navy in virginal white can bring a whiff of the ocean to any city wardrobe. Zara shows you how

From page E4

subtle option is ditching the stripes and going for blue-and-white printed tops to go with your solid whites. Or, make navy your dominant color, with splashes of white for accent.

And if you insist on going solid white head-to-toe—bless your dry-cleaning budget's soul—do it with aplomb. White works best with a sun-kissed complexion, so no matter that it comes from a bottle, do get a tan. Looking ghostly pale in summer white is a no-no.

Spring's chaste-white frocks go perfect with bright patent platforms and, fashion experts advise, bright red lips and neatly slicked-back hair for a grownup look. Pale gold accents also break the monotony of an all-white getup.

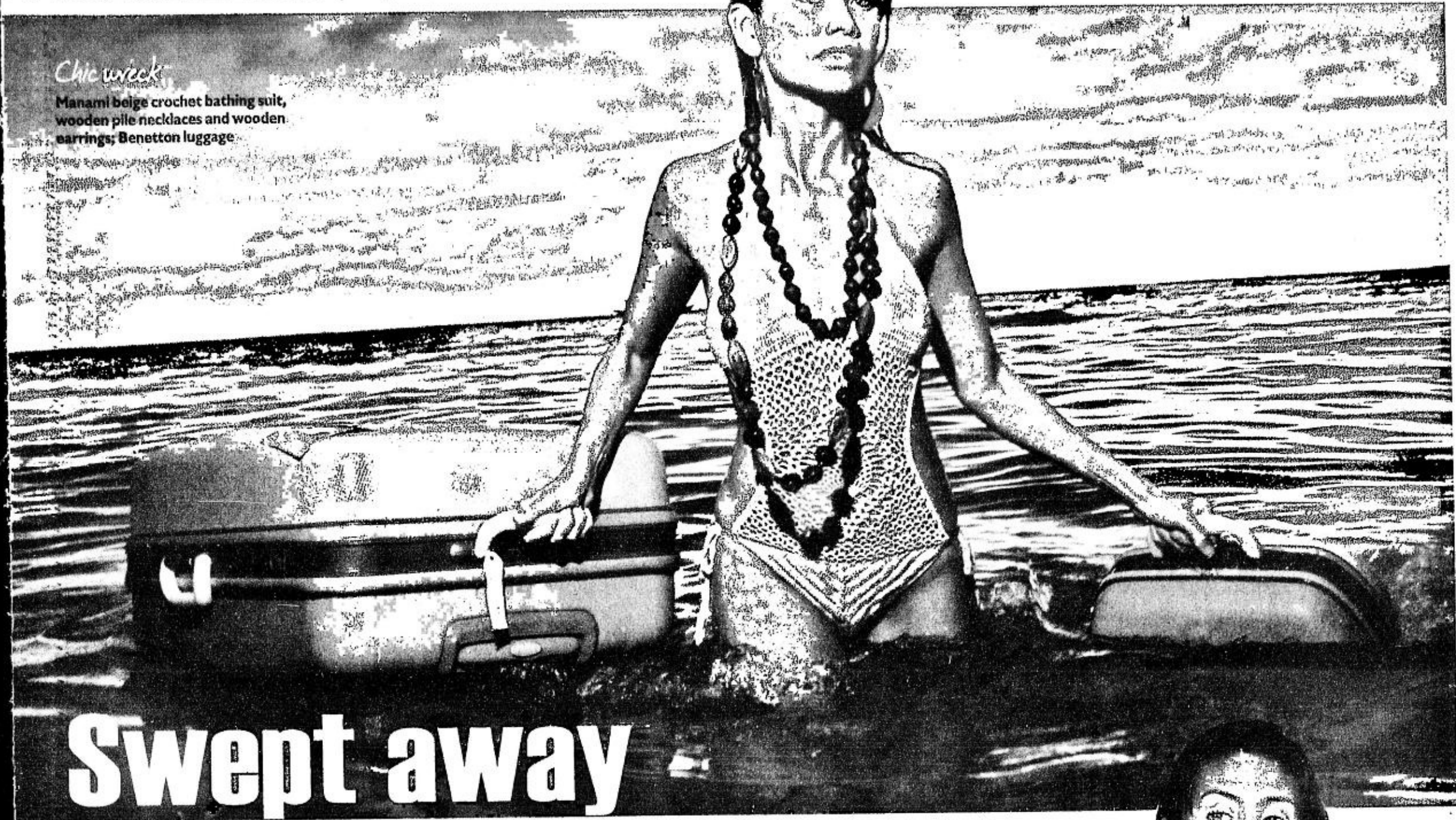
Now hop aboard and yell, Ahoy!

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph



GOLD button
and chain details
spell nautical chic.

CREATE waves in this season's swirly prints. It's the perfect contrast to your plain white trousers.



Chick wreck
Manami beige crochet bathing suit, wooden pile necklaces and wooden earrings; Benetton luggage

Swept away

Whatever life throws at you, always remember, 'gapang' with style!

From page E4

products? But of course! How can a true Chick Wreck even consider walking around with her piña colada—I mean, her firewood—without first applying Shu Uemura XTR Protector SPF 50 PA +++.

And in between spear fishing and nipa weaving, she would have to revive her senses and refresh her skin with Shu Uemura Deepsea Water, and give her lustrous curls much-needed protection with The Soleil Collection from Kérastase.

At night, after a long day of toiling under the sun (okay, and sunbathing and island-hopping, and getting first-class spa treatments and bubble baths), the Sun Maiden's mantra of after-sun care should include Shu Uemura Deepsea Therapy Skin Softening Toner and Cooling Gel Cream.

Because in the end—or should I say, at the start—of your fun-filled summer day, your tailor-made crocheted bikini and your long strands of wooden beads won't win any Fine Young Thing over if you're not in tip-top shape.

I mean, look at Madonna/Amber. She was starving and got verbally and physically abused besides. But hey, her grooming was impeccable.

Appreciate the finer things in life.

And what would a Chick Wreck be without the right accessories? Nothing but a shell of a woman crying out for a glittery trinket or a delish bag, the same way a shipwrecked man

would wail, "Wilson!"

And so, a personalized Motopet (complete with a dog tag!) should keep her company, while her sleek Motorola SLVR cell phone reminds her of all her girl friends back in the city.

A Jeux Accessories bracelet by Claire Betita-Samson and Michelle Bunag soothes her frazzled nerves, a Havaianas Slipper Bag holds her treasured flip flops, and in her Smart Infinity-Nami 2006 Planner, she makes a list of all the goodies that are hers for the taking at Nami's recently expanded Manami boutique—Cocotini by Amina Aranaz and Mia Villavicencio; A Starlet is Born by Wendy Puyat-Hotung; Lounger Lux by Celine Lopez; and Michele Sison et Kleid bags.

And just when you thought you were all alone in this tropical paradise, behold! Coming 'round the corner is your very own Nami butler, ready to cater to your every whim, be it a massage, your favorite cocktail, 32 flavors of ice cream, etc. Your very own genie in a bottle, 24/7. Fantastic!

And the food! With Nami executive chef Carla Gabor at the helm, every meal was truly Lamon Central, with yummy Asian and Western dishes—everything from Tom Yum soup to honey bourbon chicken—waiting to be devoured by guests.

Seize the summer.

Who knows what days spent on soft white sand and crystalline-blue

seas will bring? A torrid love affair, perhaps? A spa-induced, life-altering realization? A night of revelry, Thai royalty-style?

Whatever life throws at you (a crappy haircut, an even crappier client, or a Commie sailor with a very thick beard), always remember, gapang with style!

Just chic it, honey!

For more information on Nami Resorts check www.namiresorts.com, or contact the Manila Reservation Office (tel. 8121484/ 8920371, fax 8120668), or the resort directly at (036) 288675355.

E-mail jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY MARK NICDAO
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AND MAKEUP COLLECTION "SWEET MODE"
MODEL CIARA SEVILLA
CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES MANAMI BOUTIQUE
SHOT ON LOCATION NAMI RESORT,
DINIWID BEACH, BORACAY
SPECIAL THANKS TO LEX LEDESMA
AND TINA TINIO

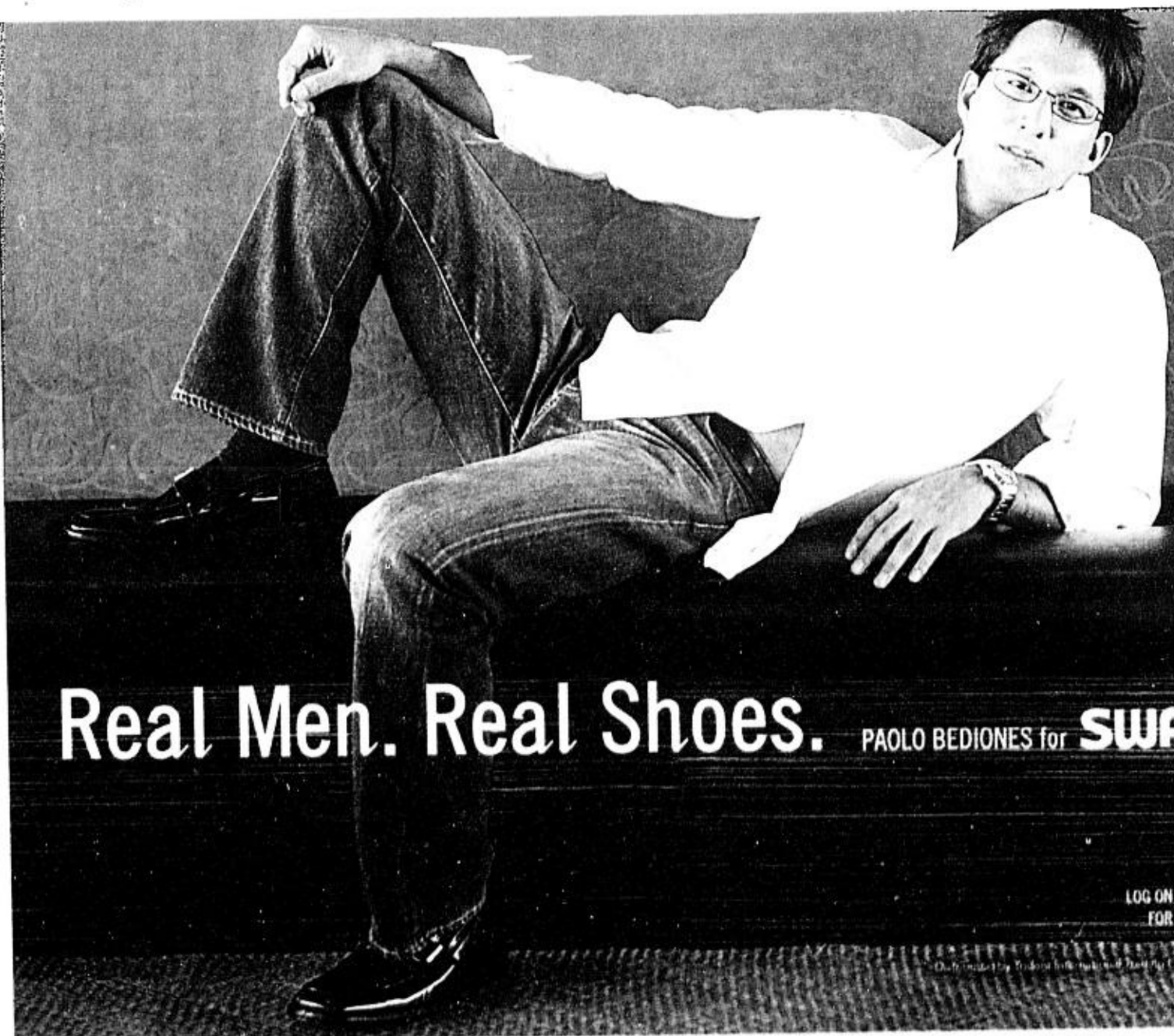
Manami Cocotini black bikini, gold bangles, silver and natural long necklace; Shu Uemura Blue Pressed Eye Shadow, Sweet Lip Gloss in Daisy, Sweet Mode Glow On in Apricot, Depsea Water in Mint; Polo Blue for Men Rouge Crème, Kerastase Soleil Voile Protector, Ralph Cool, Polo Blue for Men



Beach boudoir



PHOTOGRAPHY WESLEY VILLARICA OF PARALLAX STUDIO
STYLING JENNI EPPERSON
HAIR AND MAKEUP HELEN EGAY
MODEL NICOLETTE BELL OF PHAP
CLOTHES ZARA



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EVER

Real Men. Real Shoes.

PAOLO BEDIONES for **SWATCH** seasider

LOG ON TO SWATCHSEASIDER.COM.PH FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF OUTLETS

Swept away

Survive summer's heat with beach essentials to keep you cool and cute

MADONNA CAN DYE HER hair in every color of the rainbow, wear brassieres that can kill, even kiss Britney Spears, yet she'll still be one hot mama who can do no wrong.

Well, almost. Once upon a time, she decided to "keep it together in the family" and star in husband Guy Ritchie's ill-fated, critically massacred film, "Swept Away," playing bored rich-bitch wife Amber Leighton.

The rest is Disastrous Diva Movie History (can anyone spell "Glitter?"). I'm not going through the plot route. Instead, let me proclaim that, yes, the movie sucked, but hell, Madonna looked damn good in it—the best-dressed Chick Wreck I've encountered in the celluloid scene,

Mabuhay!



Jenni Epperson

with her perfectly messed-up beach hair and skin a radiant bronze, stripping away a wet black sweater to reveal a chic black bikini and black linen drawstring pants.

In other words, "Kahit gagapang at kakay-od ako, huhuli ng isda at mag-iigib ng tubig, I shall, and always will be...fashion."

So how does one assume—and survive—the role of Chick Wreck? For four sun-kissed, sea-sprayed days in the paradise that is Nami Resorts, between bottles of champagne and Swedish massages, we found out how.

Survival of the chic-est

Understand true, absolute priorities. Swiss knife? *Deadma*. Waterproof matches? Ho-hum. A maleta of skin- and hair-care

SWEPT/E3

Phone home

Motorola SLVR L6, Manami Cocotini polka-dot bikini, technicolored bracelet



Naughty call

By Cheche V. Moral

WHITE IS TAKING OVER fashion in a major way this resort season, and for the many who are infinitely bound to the daily grind of the city, the color's pristine coolness is just the welcome gust of freshness to douse the blistering urban heat.

Of course, no one's trying to trick you into thinking donning an immaculate white dress can substitute for actually lounging by the poolside while sipping a tall glass of piña colada, or being sprayed with ocean mist on a holiday aboard a yacht. (Goodness knows the upkeep of a white piece of garment is hardly anyone's idea of a holiday, anyway!)

But, hey, you gotta take any form of respite where you can get it. And what's the closest way to do that than through your summer wear?

White is a summer staple, and so is a strip or swirl of cerulean here and there. A mischievous shot of navy in virginal white can bring a whiff of the ocean to any city wardrobe. Aye, aye, matey, nautical-inspired fashion can be your virtual escape from the metropolis!

The workload at your desk may not exactly approximate sailing fun, but why should it stop you from looking like you're ready for a regatta?

Pair off your white pants with a navy pin-stripe shirt. Better yet, don a pair of tailored city shorts, which are dominating the spring-summer racks right now. Go for a Bermuda-length, or a pair that reaches your knees, as going any shorter may be deemed unacceptable in most workplaces.

It's business as usual when you finish it off with a white jacket—and a little something red, say, a scarf, for a shot of color, perhaps?

Ideal color cocktail

Red, white and blue are the ideal nautical cocktails, especially for a more casual look. A little red accent in the form of a belt or a scarf pair of loafers can make all the difference. Large gold button accents are also key.

But, of course, who says you have to be quite literal with this sailing fashion fling? A

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20 Motorola V3s



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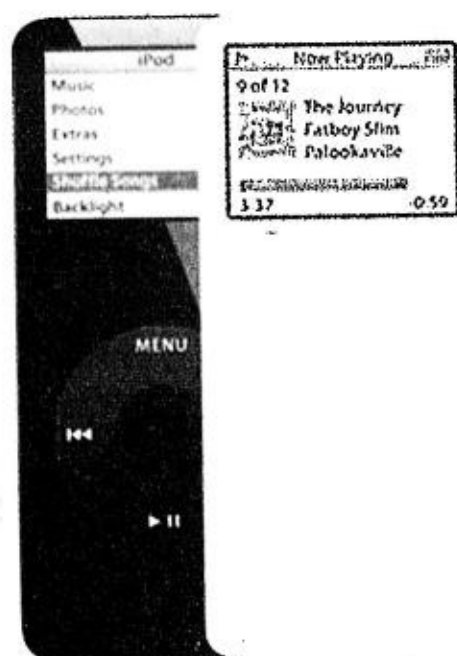
See flyers for more details. PER DTI NCR Permit No. 0941 SERIES OF 2006

VISIT ANY OF MOTOROLA'S AUTHORIZED DEALERS FOR MORE INFORMATION. ABC STORE, ABENSON, AUDIONET, ADI TELECOM, BSD INTERNATIONAL, BUSY TONE, CELLWAVE TELECOM, CELLWORKS, CELLZONE, CLEARCOM, COMCENTER, COMWORKS, ELECTROWORLD, G-TELECOM, GLOBOTEL MOBILE LINKS, INC., GMI DIGITAL WORLD (SMS), GREENTELCOM, GUANZON MERCH., HELLO TELECOMS, HERRERA BROTHERS, JUNREX CELLPHONES AND ACCESSORIES, MATRIX, MEGA CELLULAR, MEMOPRESS, MOBILE EXPERTS, MOBILE NETWORKS, NETSCAPE, NOVACELL, ORO GRAPHICS, INC., P. ALDANA, PAMPANGA CELLULAR SHOP/IDG PHONE, PINES MULTI TELECOM SHOP, POS MARKETING ENTERPRISES, INC., OSL ELECTRONICS, QUALITY CELL, RC GOLDLINE, SAVE N' EARN, SEMICON, SHOPPERS MART, SIENA TELECOM, STAR SEARCH, TEKPHONE, TOUCHCOM, VIEWERS, WELLCOM TELECOM, WILTELCOM.



First mate

LOOK fresh and feminine in a pristine-white bubble dress.



Abenson digital Summer

Gear up for this Season's Newest Gadgets.
Make your summer fun, exciting and cool.

Top Things to look for in
a digital and video camera
Page 2

What's New at
Abenson
Page 4

Cool Summer Gadgets
Product Review on the newest
electronics Page 3

Abenson's 5 Must Have Gadgets this Summer

If you're still using a film camera, maybe it's about time you look into going digital. Digital cameras will spare you from the hassle of buying and carrying around rolls of films. Best of all, Digicams allow you to preview your shots right away, so you don't have to spend on printing pictures you don't like. More than that, you can actually get better image quality and take more pictures using digital cameras. Make sure you have spare memory cards though, because for sure, you can never take enough pictures.



Gear up for great gadgets and electronics at Abenson stores. Choose from best brands and value deals.

Abenson has over 100 stores nationwide, offering over 1700 products to give customers a wide selection of products to choose from. From mobile phones, MP3 players, digital cameras and videocameras.

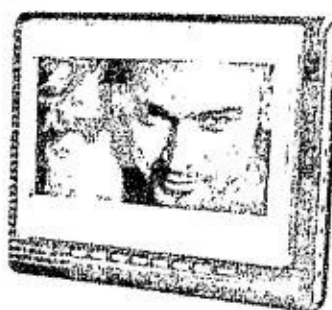
All Abenson's video cameras and digital cameras are displayed in open shelves to allow customers to try and feel the product while technically trained sales personnel explain the gadgets.



Sometimes, still pictures are just not enough. Video can make memories come alive and can vividly refresh your memory of a vacation you had years ago or your child's graduation. Video cams have different storage formats like mini DV, DVD and many others. Make sure you choose the one that best suits your needs and demands. Moreover, when you buy a video cam, it usually comes with a software that allows you to edit your videos on a computer. This way, when you show others where you've been this summer, you'll get more attention and fewer yawns.

MP3 Player

This time, you don't have to burn tons of CDs to make up your "long-drive-to-somewhere" song collection. Say hello to tiny and stylish MP3 Players, which makes good music for a 10-hour drive possible. So whether it's to beat full moments or just be one with nature with soulful music in the background, MP3 players are truthfully heaven sent.



Portable DVD Player

Going out of town could mean summer fun for most of us. But then, it could also mean long drive to a remote town and a break from technology and civilization. Many thanks to portable DVD players, potential boring moments can now be avoided. All you have to do is pack a few good movies with you, and you'll never find yourself bored or counting sheep when you can't sleep.

Magic Sing

Summer season is also the time for endless gatherings. It's usually the time when you see your relatives and friends. Cook up entertainment with the very popular Magic Sing. Good thing these mics are portable, you can bring the fun and the party anywhere you go, all you'll need is a television and you're all set. Aside from its usual videoke functions, the newest Magic Mics have record and playback function, wireless FM transmission, team game and Amateur, Pro, or Star Singer Scoring.



Get exciting summer freebies from Canon! check which one comes with your favorite digital videocamcorders.

FREE

Carrying case and Pioneer DVD Player

Optura DVD-R discs, MiniDV tapes, and battery pack.

NEW Optura 500 4.3 megapixels 10x optical zoom Only P 52,500	NEW Optura 500 4.3 megapixels 10x optical zoom Only P 62,500	NEW Optura 500 4.3 megapixels 10x optical zoom Only P 29,500	NEW Optura 500 4.3 megapixels 10x optical zoom Only P 32,500
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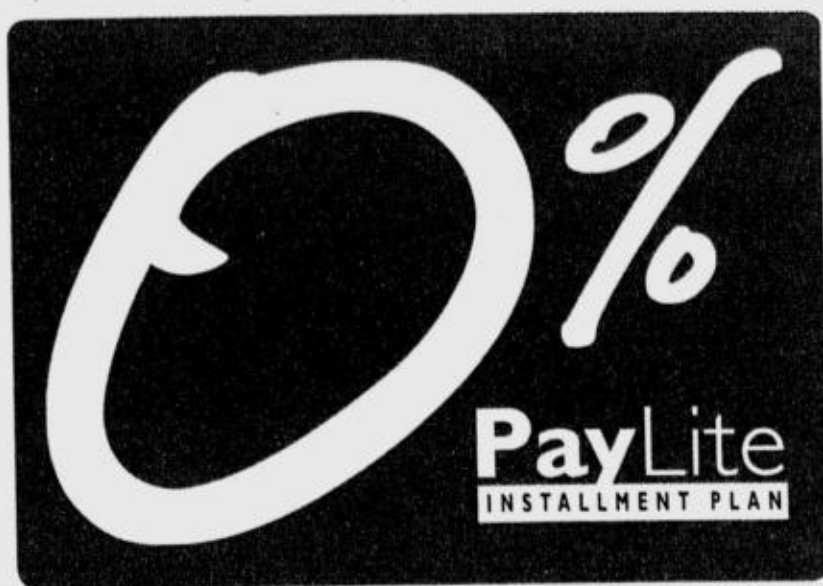
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Promo Period: February 18 to March 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1001 Series of 2006.

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A Quick Guide to Choosing Digital Still and Video Cameras

The key to buying a camera is understanding your need for ease of use versus your need to customize your shots versus your budget. Here at Abenson, our highly trained, easy-to-talk-to staff have come up with a customized way to gauge your needs, so all you have to do is walk in with this guide and we'll help you find the camera that's just the right combination. After all, nobody carries more quality camera brands and knows more about them than Abenson.



Abenson staff are more than glad to help you decide which gadgets to buy

Things to look for in getting a camera:

IMAGE RESOLUTION

In digital cameras, megapixel is indicative of the clarity or resolution of the picture. Higher megapixels have finer details. These details affect printing quality. If you usually print 3R pictures (the regular size of photos), a 1 megapixel camera is fine although nowadays cameras start at 2 megapixel. 5 megapixel cameras can print up to A3 or 11" x 16". For video cams, video quality is measured by CCD. Most video cams have 1 chip CCD. 3CCD cams can already pass broadcast quality but are naturally more expensive.

STORAGE

Below is a guide to how many pictures you can fit in a memory card.

	2 MP	3MP	4MP	5MP
64MB	71 shots	53 shots	32 shots	20 shots
128MB	142 shots	106 shots	64 shots	40 shots
256MB	283 shots	211 shots	122 shots	80 shots
512MB	565 shots	420 shots	243 shots	160 shots

STORAGE MEDIUM

Look at the memory storage medium you currently have. It would be good to get a digital camera that supports the existing medium you have. If you have none, popular storage media are compact flash cards and SD cards. Although digital camera manufacturers have their own media type, most cameras have multi-media type capability.



Abenson offers a wide selection of gadgets to give you more choices

For video cams, storage medium affects overall video quality. Hi-8 are not as clear as mini DV, DVD, hard disk and high density disc formats. Consider picture quality, price, capacity and your

needs before you decide which format best suits you. The clearer it gets, the more expensive it becomes.

ZOOM

In deciding what kind of zoom to look at, pay more attention to optical zoom over digital zoom. The former magnifies the image to be taken without quality degradation. It determines the number of times a camera can enhance picture using its lenses. 10x optical zoom is common.

LCD

Large LCD makes previewing pictures and videos a lot better. Some cameras are already equipped with wide screen display for better preview.

BATTERY

Battery types for cameras range from AAA, which can be bought from regular stores, to rechargeable batteries such as NiMH and LiIon. In the long run, rechargeable batteries become cheaper.

WEIGHT AND SIZE OF CAMERA

Semi-pro and professional cameras are usually big, bulky and powerful. They're not ideal for simple barkada gimmick or even to island hopping with friends. If you think you'll bring your camera wherever you go, look for simple point and shoot cameras with more compact design.

WARRANTY:

Manufacturer's warranty ranges from 1 year to 3 years. Check with an Abenson Retail Sales Coordinator the warranty coverage of your unit.

Visit an Abenson store to learn more about cameras. You can test and check them before making your final decision.

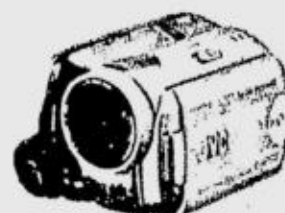
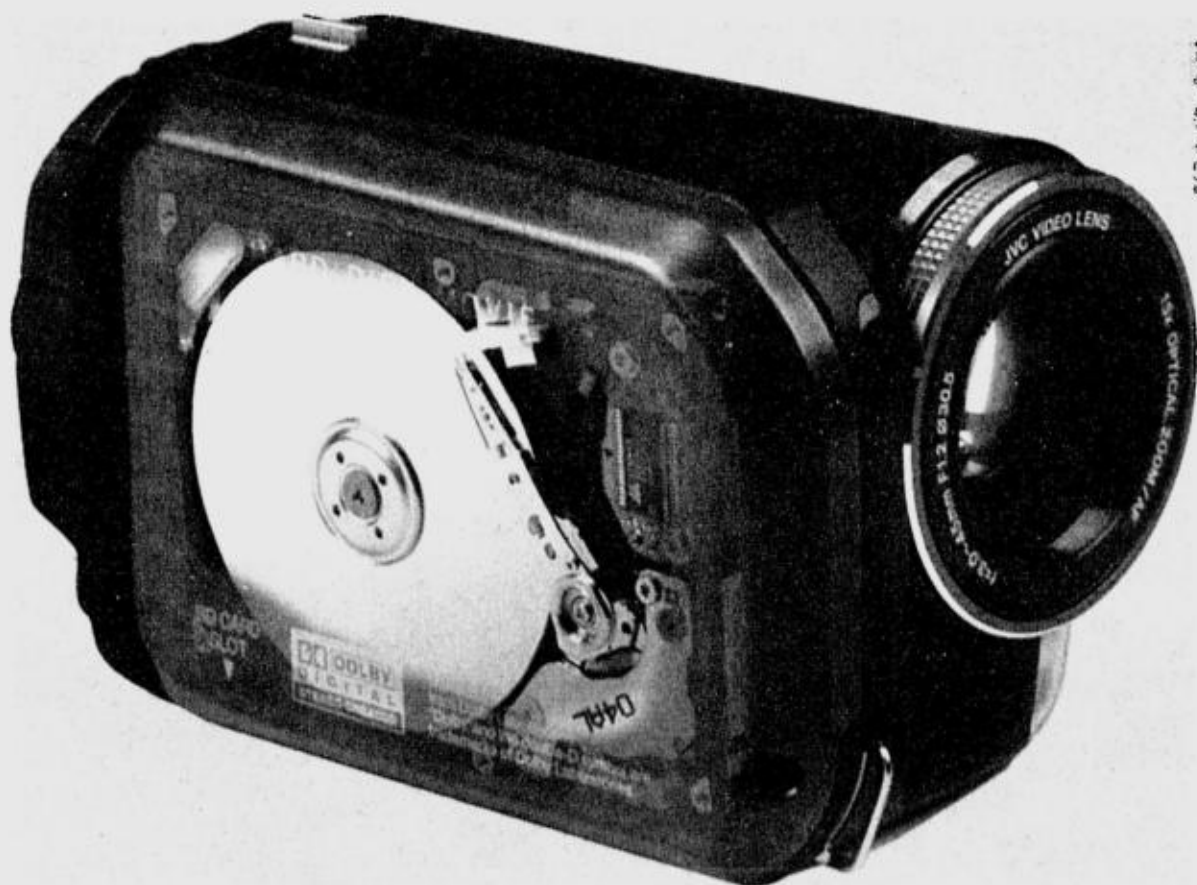


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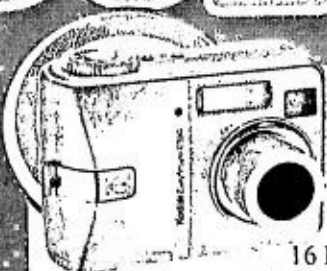
Cool Summer Gadget Picks



Kodak V570
5 megapixels
5x optical, 4x digital
dual lens digital camera
32 MB internal memory
SD/MMC card expansion slot
Video capture with sound
P29,995

Kodak came out with a big surprise with this first of its kind dual lens 5-Megapixel digital camera. The bottom lens shoots at the standard focal length while the top lens makes ultra wide-angle shots possible. Holding the camera at arms-length when taking your barkada portrait will take a little less effort using this camera. That's why whether you're just taking barkada pictures or panoramic landscape pictures; you will not deprive yourself from the many solutions this dual-lens camera can give.

*Available at Electroworld stores



Kodak C330
4 megapixels
3x optical 5x digital
video capture
16 MB internal memory
SD/MMC card expansion slot
P 9,995

One click encapsulates what Kodak C330 has to offer. It's one of Kodak's finest releases in point and shoot cameras with its 4-Megapixel picture quality. It takes one click to capture a great image and another click to share, that coming out with a decent photo has become nearly effortless. Simple as it is, its 13 easy-to-access scene modes and 3 color modes give us room to explore options to come up with more creative shots. If your main goal is to shoot great pictures with no sweat involved, then go ahead and buy this camera.

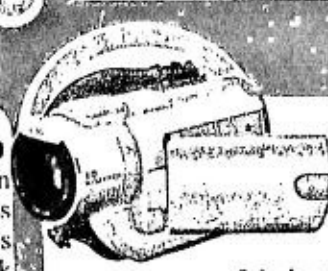


Apple iPod 1GB Nano
1.5" color screen
stores up to 240 songs
up to 15,000 photos
up to 14 hrs music playback
up to 4 hrs slideshow w/ music
comes w/ earphones, usb cable,
universal dock adapter
P9,490

NEW

Ipod Nano has just added a new member to its family with the New iPod Nano 1GB.

It can store up 240 songs and has the same features with the other types of Nano. Because of the storage capacity cutback, more people can afford the benefits that iPod Nano can give. iPod Nano 1GB uses skip-proof flash memory which makes the data less delicate. More than that, it makes data transfer faster than usual. So if you thought it will take you 2 months of savings before you can buy an iPod Nano, now it might even take you less than a month.



Sony DCR-DVD005
DVD Format
1/3" 3.31 Megapixel
primary Color CCD
5.1 ch surround recording with
built in mic
Built-in flash,
Carl Zeiss Vario-Sonar
P64,999

NEW

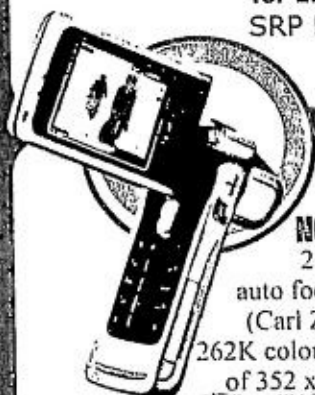
An absolute heaven sent for video enthusiasts, is what this camera is all about. It has 2.7" wide screen hybrid LCD for better preview. Like most Sony video cameras, zooming in and out is a breeze with its excellent grip; this, coupled with its touch screen controls, makes operation sweat-free. As an added feature, it allows simple editing function before finalizing your DVD output. Aside from its high-resolution video recording, it can also capture 3-megapixel still pictures making it the perfect camera for photos, video, and audio capture.



JVC GR-270U
Mini-DV camcorder
1/6" 680k pixel ccd camera
2.5" LCD high-resolution monitor
25x optical zoom

Video buffs rave about JVC's GR-270U. It was a big improvement in terms of picture quality and easy of use from last year's GR series. Though packaged as the beginners' video camera, it performed excellently under low lighting condition, rendered commendable video resolution and praise-worthy ease in control.

P2,382/mo
for 12 months
SRP P28,580



NOKIA N90
2 megapixel
auto focus camera
(Carl Zeiss Lens)
262K color resolution
of 352 x 416 pixels

"Rotation" is probably the N90's guiding principle. It can make heads turn when its camera and body start to rotate in its numerous ways. Mobile camera enthusiasts will rave about its 2-megapixel revolving camera with flash, 8X digital zoom, auto-focus and Carl Zeiss optic. All its hi-tech swiveling maneuvers complement its futuristic 3G function. It may not be the phone you can put inside your pocket due to its bulky size, but its power and functions more than compensate.

NEW Low Price

P3,125/mo
for 12 months
SRP P37,500



NOKIA N70
Two integrated cameras: 2 megapixel camera with built-in camera flash and up to 20x digital zoom
Two-way video call and video sharing capability
262,144 color display

Elegant yet powerful come to mind when we see N70. A big plus is the large display screen that provides extra clarity. It has Opera web browser, Quickword and Quicksheets. It also boasts of a dual lens -2megapixel camera that renders good quality mobile phone pictures. To top it all off, it has 3G capabilities which enable the front camera to be used perfectly for video calls. It is definitely a prime choice for any technophile.

NEW Low Price

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for 12 months
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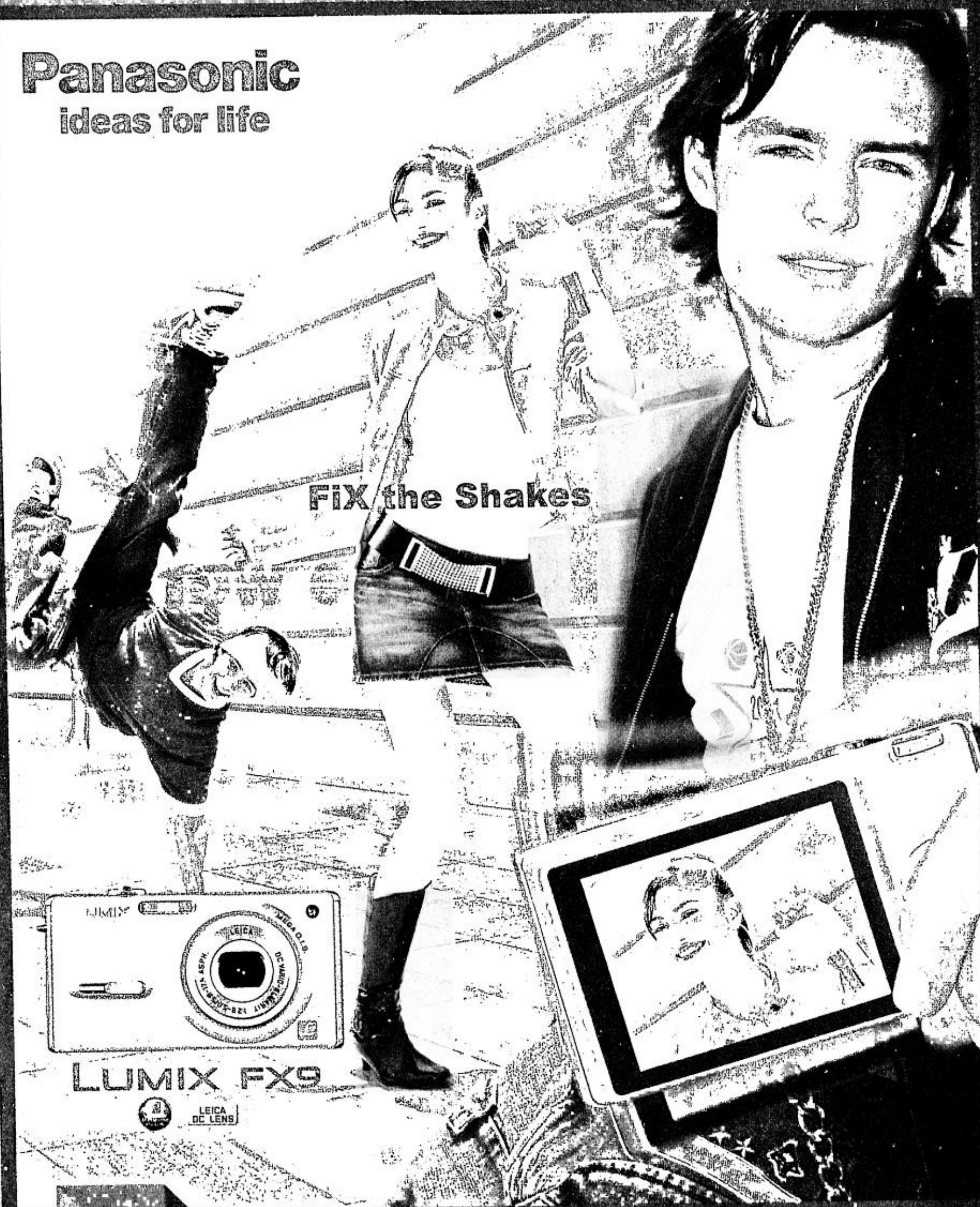
Best Value!

If you want to buy a small, stylish and reliable mp3 player without hurting your pocket, then this Creative release is probably what you're looking for. You'll enjoy great music and great value at the same time. Since it's also a thumb drive and allows you to save data, you'll love it even more.

SRP P1,999

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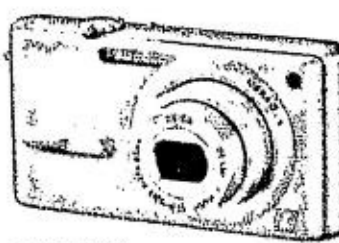
Without MEGA O.I.S.



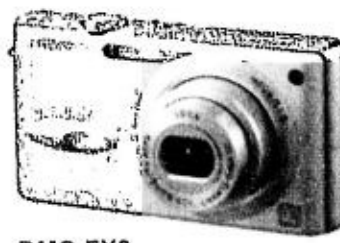
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MEGA O.I.S.

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DMC-FX8
• 5.0 MEGA Pixels
• LEICA Lens
• MEGA O.I.S. - No blur due to hand-shake
• 2.5" Large LCD Monitor

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Visit an Abenson store and check out our gadgets collection. Because whether you want regular home appliances or now even your tech stuff like Ipods, mobile phones, video cams, or digital cameras minus the headache-inducing technical mumbo jumbo,

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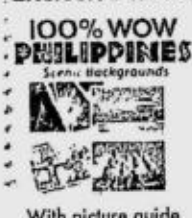
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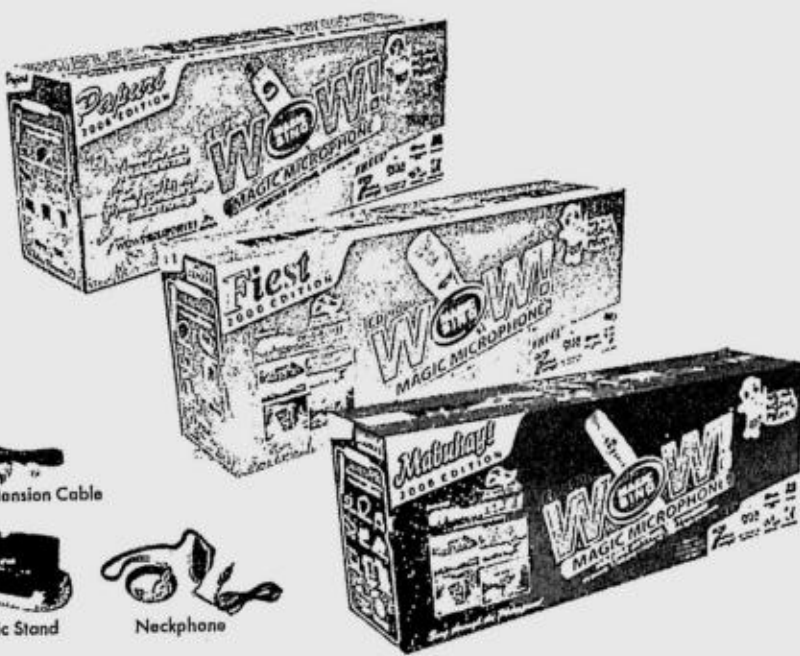
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TAGALOG 4 (874 Songs)



TAGALOG 6 (500 Songs)

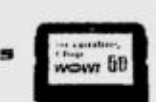


TAGALOG 5 (500 Songs)

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In Abenson, buying a gadget doesn't have to be rocket science. Friendly and fully trained appliance specialists can explain the most technical stuff in a language a non-techie can understand. The country's leading provider of top of the line consumer electronics and appliances has gotten tech life simple by offering digital solutions to its customers. From appliances and home entertainment, Abenson has now become a digital haven for techies, and an expert in both fields that is.

At Abenson, it is possible to find all your appliances and electronic needs in one convenient location. Abenson is the largest appliance chain in the Philippines, providing Filipinos a place to buy quality products at affordable prices and with superior after-sales services.

The company ensures total customer satisfaction through payment schemes such as 0% interest installment and financing services tie-up with Citifinancial. These two payment schemes allow customers to avail of their gadgets at no interest installment for up to 12 months or flexible payment terms up to 36 months. Abenson is on your side in getting the best deals so that buying an appliance can be easy and affordable.

Abenson also offers value-added services like Extended Warranty which adds 1 or 2 years warranty to the usual 1 year manufacturer's coverage. You will get 100% product repairs coverage similar with the manufacturer's warranty. Extended Warranty is affordable, for as low as 6 pesos a day, you can protect your investment for an additional one or two years.

At Abenson, you get a complete solution of products. Aside from the gadgets sold, you too can get the accessories that go along with it. True to its positioning of being a one stop shop, Abenson offers batteries, memory sticks, carrying cases for cameras; even skins and speakers for Ipods.

So whether you want regular home appliances like TV, ref, washing machine, air conditioner or now even your tech stuff like Ipods, mobile phones, video cams, or digital cameras minus the headache-inducing technical mumbo jumbo, Abenson is definitely the place to go.

Check out Abenson's lineup of trusted quality brands at Suliit deals, because at Abenson, "sigurado ka".

For inquiries, please call 7475057.

